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Montana's Treasure Acres

Vol. XXIV, No. I January/February, 1972

Montanans Busy at D. C. Meet

Members of the Montana Association of Conservation Districts—with one of the largest delegations ever—more than made their presence known in Washington, D.C., during the annual convention of the National Association of Conservation Districts ... and they got some needed work done!

So reports MACD President Bob Anderson, Fort Benton, who headed the delegation of some 35 ... most of whom brought their wives to participate in the Ladies Auxiliary program of NACD.

(Shown at right, above, are some of the delegates visiting Montana's Eastern District Congressman John Melcher—during breaks in the NACD convention activities.)

Montanans were active on national-level committees dealing with public lands, educations, research, water resources, district operations and the Northern Great Plains area meeting. Favorable consideration by NACD was given MACD resolutions on saline seep research, forestry inventories and water systems fees on forest lands.

Montanans serving on NACD committees and subcommittees include Peter V. Jackson (Public Lands, Resource Planning and Development, and Internal Affairs subcommittee) and Donald O. Freker (education and Public Lands). Jackson is an NACD director and Freker is an area vice president for NACD.

The largest convention ever held by NACD, more than 2,000 delegates, took advantage of the convention site to visit with the various Congressional delegations and federal agencies involved with conservation activities.

Among key actions of NACD was a resolution in response to a suit against a PL 566 watershed and SCS project to stop all channelization on a North Carolina project (channelization east of the Mississippi would be considered irrigation in Montana.) NACD is considering an intervener status in the suit.

The proposed cut-back in SCS funding and the use of chemical toxicants on public lands also was the subject of serious discussion and resolution by the convention.

Ladies auxiliary activities included a visit to the White House where they attended a tour and tea, hosted by Mrs. Julie Eisenhower, representing Mrs. Nixon.

MACD to Place Major Emphasis On Information-Education in '72

TO: All Supervisors of Montana's County Conservation Districts

SUBJECT: Adad's generosity (or lack of) to the membership of Montana's major conservation organization!

"If a man owe a debt and Adad inundate his field and carry away produce or, through lack of water, grain have not grown in the field, in that year he shall not make any return of grain to the creditor ..."

—From the Prologue to the Code of Hammurabi King of Babylon

At MACD's annual meeting in Missoula late in October, the membership gave tentative (and somewhat tenuous) approval to two projects long advocated by MACD's leadership. These projects are detailed in the articles in the adjoining columns.

1) The first project is explained in the following resolution adopted by the Convention—"WHEREAS, the Annual Convention Program is viewed as a major prestige and public information tool of the MACD ... the publication of an Annual Convention Program worthy of MACD's objectives should reflect key programs undertaken by the member districts during the year previous to its publication. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that MACD be authorized to instruct its member districts to furnish the state office of MACD sufficient material (editorial and/or photographs) of highlight activities of the said districts to be featured in at least a half-page (4 1-2"x6" area) display section of the 1972 Annual Yearbook/Convention Program.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that this editorial/photographic material be accompanied by a check for $50 to cover the costs of publication.

In essence, what this resolution suggests is that MACD publish a meaningful booklet (30-50 pages) of the activities of the various conservation districts in the state (with each district alloted space in the booklet to highlight a key activity of the previous year); that this booklet have sufficient informational value to justify distribution to libraries, schools and key city, county and state leadership groups, and that the costs of publishing a sufficient number of the informational booklets for such distribution be shared by the 59 MACD-participating districts.

It should be pointed out that the $50 charge is arbitrary (as well as voluntary) and should actual printing and distribution costs be less, the balance would be refunded to the participating districts. Realistically, such a refund would be possible only if all of Montana's conservation districts participated. But the arbitrary choice of $50 was felt necessary in order to insure an initial effort in the area by the time of the 1972 Convention.

Also, in order to insure the best possi-

(Continued on Page 2)

2) The second project, more tenuous in nature and certainly the most ambitious program ever undertaken by any state conservation district association, revolves around the application by MCAD for a $74,157 grant from the U.S. Office of Education's Environmental Education Program. Supported by a resolution, approved by MACD's membership, the association, in cooperation with Montana's Office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction, asked financial assistance in—

a) Broadening the circulation of MACD's publication, TREASURE ACRES, to include *every* conservation cooperator in Montana (some 20,000 plus every school child in the state (in excess of 150,000) with an expanded publication designed to appeal not only to dedicated conservationists—you—but also to the general public and certainly including our primary and secondary school children.

b) Hiring a Conservation Coordinator in the Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction whose duties will include the writing of a special conservation/environmental insert for TREASURE ACRES which will be available to the school systems for conservation education. Additionally, this Coordinator will work with the school systems and Conservation Dis-

(Continued on Page 3)

Robert Anderson, President
Montana Association of CDs
Fort Benton, Montana

Dear Bob:

Boy oh boy, when I received the TREASURE ACRES with its new look and the Cascade County District Newsletter (inserted), I thought ... what a job those Montana Cowboys are doing. More power to you.

Sincerely,

Robert S. McClelland
Western Program Advisor
National Association of Conservation Districts

Rangeland Resource Plan Gains Momentum in State

By PETE JACKSON, Chief, Grass Conservation Bureau

It is always pleasant to report progress on any program, but more especially when we are promoting a successful one.

Several meetings have been held in the past few months to explain and promote the Rangeland Resource Program. These meetings have been hosted by conservation districts and extremely gratifying has been the broad representation in attendance.

As a result of our meetings, the program has been implemented by many conservation districts, with many more expressing interest in the program's concept of protection, development and use of our rangelands.

In other action by the Grass Conservation Bureau, the second edition of the Rangeland Program has been completed and is ready for distribution. Although not basically changed, this second edition, thanks to the cooperation and workmanship of the Extension Service, is perhaps a more concise and easily understood booklet. Because we feel that we have moved beyond the history stage, this section of the book has been removed in the second edition.

One closing comment. In any resource program, the economic factor cannot be overlooked ... and it is especially vital that we follow the concept of a business approach to resource utilization.

Annual Review of Districts' Activity . . .

'Conservation Yearbook' Planned

(Continued from Page 1)

ble editorial and photographic layout (a good-looking and informational booklet), it is mandatory that we who are charged with the responsibility of publishing the booklet set some deadlines. Accordingly, here is the schedule we are asking that you adhere to

—Your district's check for $50 mailed to MACD's state office in Helena prior to 1 July, 1972 (on the theory that it's easier to send money than get organized in submitting the editorial and/or photographic material—and such an advance commitment on your part will help us tremendously in determining how big a booklet we should plan for.) Incidentally, if you would like to have your section of the booklet financed by supporting businesses in your community, there is certainly no objection—just be sure and send a listing of the financial cooperators so that they may receive proper recognition on your page.

—Your editorial and/or photographic material mailed to MACD's state office in Helena prior to 1 September, 1972. And here, don't get "shook" over your writing prowess—just send what you want included (better yet, get your District Conservationist to put it together), along with whatever pictures you feel are appropriate (and be sure and write some identification on the back) and get it all in the mail. We'll take it from there in terms of re-writing, if necessary, and layout and display.

But now, to get back to Adad and what he may or may not have done to swell your financial coffers during this year . if your district is broke and cannot subscribe the $50 charge (and if you feel your cooperator-businesses can't stand a pro-rated $5-$10 charge to help), then we will go along with King Hammurabi and not ask "any return of grain." But we do want the editorial/photographic material—whether you send the check or not!

The prime reason for the yearbook is to provide an informational service To do that we must have the cooperation of ALL the districts in sending us the material to include. So . . money or no, SEND IN THE ATTACHED COUPON—FILLED OUT—JUST AS SOON AS YOUR DISTRICT HAS ANOTHER MEETING and please don't check "no" where it asks that you can indicate whether you can supply the needed editorial/photographic material!

Letter to Sen. Mansfield Cites Reasons for MACD Proposal

(EDITOR'S NOTE The following letter, sent to Sen Mike Mansfield by MACD's public information chairman, with copies to the others in Montana's Congressional delegation, cites the reasoning behind MACD's proposal for Office of Education funding of a fiscal 1973 information/education project In the interests of wide understanding of the proposed project by MACD's membership, it is reprinted below)

Reference your letter of 24 February, acknowledging receipt of a copy of MACD's application for Office of Education funding of a statewide informational/educational project, perhaps the following may prove helpful in your much-appreciated offer of assistance

1) The project proposed by the Montana Association of Conservation Districts and Montana's office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction suggests a cooperative effort by district-level conservationists and the school system unparalleled by any Environmental Education Program—ever or anywhere! Its objectives are the ultimate application of the broad guidelines set down by President Nixon as to what the funding should endeavor to achieve.

2) Montana is not yet in the position of so many of the states—contaminated almost beyond resurrection. Hence, the Office of Education has a real opportunity to assist in the development of a program of a truly preventive nature before the fact, rather than aimed at trying to turn the clock backward (a much more expensive and impossible task.)

3) The experimental nature of the individual school systems working with practicing conservationists to educate our youth to the necessity of environmental protection (complete with how-to-do-it action programs) could well provide a model for every other state with similar groups. Such a pilot program in Montana would provide the Office of Education with an ideal test laboratory—in that, because of our population scarcity and minimum environmental imbalance, the program can be instituted, operated and evaluated at a minimum cost . . . while still providing a maximum potential for adoption by other school systems in states where the pollution problems are almost insurmountable.

4) The only real hope of preventing what has already happened in the eastern and southern states in terms of environmental disaster lies with the states included in Region VIII. We must learn the lessons of the despoiled industrial areas of our nation quickly—and teach them to our youth if we are not to fall into the same miserable trap. Yet in fiscal 1971, only five Office of Education environmental grants were awarded for the entire Region VIII area — North and South Dakota, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and Montana! (In contrast, Massachusetts had six grants approved—with only a faint hope of maintaining a status quo on an already contaminated environment, and hardly a prayer of really improving the environment.

Certainly I realize the tremendous needs and the demand for what necessarily is a rather limited funding program. I also admit my bias for Montana—gladly and thankfully But, even so, I would think federal money would be more effectively utilized helping keep the horse in the barn—rather than chasing him after he has been allowed to escape.

Open Burning Not Good Idea

Open burning is not usually a good agricultural practice, SCS warns Besides polluting the air, it destroys property—fence posts, utility poles, bridges, crops forage, etc

As a rule it does more damage to desirable grasses than it does to weeds and shrubs, according to SCS Vital parts of bunch-grasses are mostly above ground where great damage can be done by fire

Burning can usually be avoided, according to Clark Neilson, supervisor of the open burning program for Montana When burning is necessary, the State Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, Air Quality Bureau has a permit program insuring the most desirable results County sanitarians, sheriff's offices or the fire chief usually handle this program

DISTRICT SUPERVISORS' QUESTIONNAIRE

(Please Complete as soon as possible and mail to JEANNE BALUKA, Secretary MACD, c/o 422 Mitchell Bldg., Helena 59601)

DISTRICT NAME ____________________

MAILING ADDRESS ____________________
(Street or P O Box)

____
(City) (Zip)

☐ Yes, you may expect our check for $50 PRIOR to your 1 July, 1972 deadline

☐ No, we're sorry but we'll be unable to subscribe $50 for publication of MACD's "Yearbook of Activities "

☐ Yes, we will provide editorial/photographic material suitable for inclusion in MACD's "Yearbook" and will have the material in the mail PRIOR to the September 1, 1972 deadline

☐ No, we will not be able to provide material for MACD's "Yearbook of Activities "

. . . .

Should you have questions or need a "contact" individual representing our district, please contact

NAME ____________________

MAILING ADDRESS ____________________
(Street P O Box City Zip Code)

PHONE ____________________

By Morge Uhlrich

Montana's young people are concerned about the need to protect the state's tremendous natural resources They are sincerely concerned about the misuse of our natural environment

Anyone who listened to the young people at the state speech contest sponsored by the districts and Montana's rural electric cooperatives must have been encouraged and stimulated by the clear and responsible thinking of the participants Their dedication, enthusiasm and knowledge was impressive, as evidenced by these quotable remarks

"In the 28th verse of the first book of our Bible, God told man to be fruitful, multiply and take dominion over the earth. To me this means that man should use but not abuse our land In the last five years we have been swamped with a new breed of environmentalists who maintain that man should not manipulate but should allow nature's system of the checks and balances to prevail in all cases I believe that man should and must take dominion over the earth and use his best technology in its management."

"We are astronauts—all of us Our spaceship, the earth, is on an endless trip around the sun. Our ship has been blessed with life-supporting systems so ingenious that they are self renewing, so massive that they feed, clothe, and shelter millions For centuries we have considered our blessing, our natural resources, unlimited. Now that we are beginning to evaluate these resources, the findings are alarming

"Nearly everyone agrees that we are injuring these life supporting systems, and unless we stop abusing these ecosystems they will collapse We must maintain them or pay the penalty, the penalty is death."

"Our soil is the most precious resource we have on this earth. Sometimes when we speak of our mineral resources we speak of coal, iron, oil, copper, etc., and more or less disregard the soil. We cannot underestimate the importance of soil and we may not take it for granted Without soil there could be no life.

"With our growing population it is becoming more and more important to conserve soil and to keep it fertile We have already come a long way in the management practices Conservation of our soil is really management If we are consistent with our conservation methods, life on this earth can continue to thrive Let's all do our share to keep the soil where it belongs It has my concern. Does it have yours?"

The education chairman for the State Association, Yugo Nayematsu, is completing plans for the speech contests to be held again this year in cooperation with the Conservation Districts and the Montana Associated Utilities.

As ladies interested in conservation, let us be alert to the possible ways we can assist in promoting these contests in our own districts We want the supervisors to know that we consider it our obligation to be a part of conservation education.

Conservation education can give to the coming generations the understanding that is necessary to stimulate individual responsibility and pride Certainly, one of the best supplements to class work in school programs to cultivate such interest is a public speaking contest Ladies, let's be on the job—to help build with our youth for a better environment.

3
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By
Robert
derson

Montana can certainly be proud of the delegation which traveled to Washington, D C. to attend the National Association of Conservation Districts' convention. Some 40 people from all parts of the state were present at what was the largest convention in NACD history

Montana's delegation made double use of this trip as we spent considerable time visiting our Congressional delegation and the various Federal agencies that we work with. We were also very active at the Convention in supporting and passing our major resolutions We shall also follow these resolutions and press for action I am sure you are all aware that it is one thing to sell an idea and yet another to gain the desired results

I know that you have all had the opportunity to evaluate the new format of TREASURE ACRES. Our circulation is being increased and, hopefully, we will be able to do a better job of keeping you and all Montanans informed of our activities in the future.

Your board of directors has reviewed all the resolutions passed at the last state convention, and we believe we have initiated action in all cases If there is something in particular that you think needs further attention, please feel free to write me. We need help and guidance from the grass roots and, with it, I am sure we can look forward to a successful year

As I close this column, I would like to remind all districts that their dues and other special assessments are needed badly **now**. Your association does not have an operating reserve Bills come in to me regularly and I find it very embarrassing to have to hold them until funds come in, so please cooperate and get these commitments taken care of

Thank you!

in brief...

HAVRE's 4-H CAMP THIS YEAR will be held at the Beaver Creek Recreation camp, the week of June 26-30. Roger Wilson and Roy Linn of the Extension Service will co-chairman the program, to include environment, recreation management, wildlife, soils and range. Groups interested in this year's program may make arrangements with the local county agent

ANNUAL MEETING for the Montana Conservation Council has been set for April 28-29 at the Holiday Inn in Great Falls, according to Don Boslay, president. A special invitation to participate has been extended members of the MACD, with President Bob Anderson scheduled to participate on a panel for "Inventory Techniques and Implementation."

A SERIES OF 12 SUPERVISOR workshops, held throughout Montana during February and March, has been completed, according to Ole Ueland, chief of the Soil Conservation Bureau Main topic of discussion was a review of legislation of concern to conservation districts and new legislation related to land use planning.

THE LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS plans to hold a series of meetings in June on the general topic of "Land Use Planning." County commissioners and conservation district supervisors will be invited to participate in discussions on legislation being proposed nationally as well as additional needed legislation for Montana.

AT A REORGANIZATION MEETING of the Montana Conservation Commission, held in February, Carl Johnson of Livingston was elected chairman with Leo Hackley, Culbertson, vice chairman. A new member of the Commission, representing Montana's Cooperative Grazing Districts, is Frank Cimrhekl. Other members of the Commission include John Vanisko, George Lackman, Torlief Aasheim, Joe Asleson and A. B. Linford. The February meeting was the first the Commission held as an advisory group to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, as reorganized.

THE STEERING COMMITTEE of the Headwaters Resource Conservation and Development Project is working presently to inform the public of the potential of an RC&D project. The Headwaters RC&D has been expanded to include, in addition to the original sponsors from Mile High, Jefferson and Deer Lodge CDs, the Madison, Ruby and Beaverhead CDs—all of the six counties involved. Typical of the projects being promoted by the Headwaters group are the Boulder Watershed project, the Georgetown Lake Study, a town sewer project and several recreational developments and soil surveys for countywide planning.

THE LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY Conservation District has accepted responsibility for establishing zoning ordinances for the protection of agriculture in the county The action was taken at the request of the City-County Planning Board

DEER LODGE VALLEY Conservation District reports the hiring of Daniel McEldarry as an employee made available through the Emergency Employment Act.

WITH THE FORMATION OF THE Regional Planning Association of Western Montana, land use planning is becoming an active issue in Granite County The county commissioners and the Granite Conservation District has asked that local people become active participants in this program which plans for the future of Granite County

TWO YOUNG PEOPLE WILL BE INVITED to serve as Associate Supervisors of the McCone County Conservation District, according to action taken by the board Present plans call for two high school students to be selected

THE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE on Soil and Water Conservation has urged the USDA to redouble its efforts to inform the public of agricultural contributions to environmental improvement. Specific areas, felt in need of additional attention, included agricultural related sediment control and animal-waste disposal; watershed activity and resource conservation and development projects, and public access to water resource projects.

TRAVEL AMERICA AND WHEREVER YOU GO you are apt to find whole communities caught up in an effort to shape up their surroundings. Resource conservation, with an accent on wise use, is playing a part The activity, according to SCS, is especially evident in Georgia, where the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation, a statewide organization of rural electric cooperatives, and the Georgia Association of Conservation Districts are urging resource conservation in a Beautification through Conservation Awards Program. The program rewards with cash and glory those counties and communities making exceptional progress in conservation and beautification. It is now in its fourth year

QUOTED FROM THE WALL STREET JOURNAL "Cities are filthy Farms are clean. That's the way it seems to most people While the battle over insecticides may have marred the farm's wholesome, bucolic image, the American farmer has managed to stay aloof from much of the national furor over pollution But all this is changing Pollution controllers increasingly conclude that farms account for a surprising amount of the nation's pollution in several categories—even in cities For instance, many cities draw their drinking water from rural areas, where contamination from livestock feedlots, and fertilizer-soaked fields, is heavy The National Wildlife Federation estimates that 15 per cent of all U S. water pollution eminates from agricultural sources . . ."

BEGINNING IN LATE JUNE, some 3,000 boys and girls around the nation will begin 8-week tours of conservation work in the country's national forests, parks and other federally administered land areas. Budgeted at $3.5-million, the 1972 Youth Conservation Camp program has plans to operate 95 camps that will draw participants from all the states, the District of Columbia and American Samoa.

In Proposed MACD/OSPI Project . . .

'Treasure Acres' Broadens Role

(Continued from Page 1)

trict supervisors throughout the state to develop a closer liaison between conservation teaching theory and infield conservation practices—with the various District Supervisors expected to play a major role in working with teachers in providing experience and expertise in conservation education (field trips, farm/ranch tours, slide presentations, in-class demonstrations, etc).

Here, again, we need your support and cooperation While the initial application was drawn up and submitted at the state level without local district support there can be no hope of federal financing As might be imagined there is a tremendous competition among all of the states for the available funds and while Montana's Congressional delegation have promised every assistance, their strength in pushing for the project can only be provided by you—the individual conservationists.

Elsewhere in this issue of TREASURE ACRES is a copy of a letter sent to Sen. Mike Mansfield in support of the project. Hopefully you, individually and as a district, will see fit to write, telephone or wire similar comments to Montana's Congressional delegation. And the time is now. According to the Office of Education, the grant awards will be announced "in early spring" which means that any support we can muster for the program must go out immediately Can you, will you pick up the ball and help win support for what has to be one of the most innovative programs ever proposed for conservation education/information?

A small sample of what the "new" TREASURE ACRES will look like eventually is evidenced in this (and the convention issue) publication. If you like the general direction of its appearance and content—and would like to see it continued and expanded—then, as they used to say in the beginning typing exercise, now is the time to come to the aid of your country (Incidentally, we'd like your comments on these last two issues of TREASURE ACRES, too let us know what you like, don't like, areas where you would like to see more information and coverage--in short, let us hear from you so we'll know if we're heading in the right direction)

Dream House or . . . NIGHTMARE?

City folks wax romantic at the idea of a weekend retreat in the country

They know just what it should be like a spacious, handsomely rustic dwelling surrounded by just enough lovely trees and within easy view of a stream . . . yet not too far from the city!

And some get their dream house — a fraction of one per cent, that is—mostly those with lots of luck

Too often, however, you buy or build your dream house with everything you think you need, move in and then—

The basement floods, the septic tank doesn't work, the foundation slips or cracks, a hillside slides into your living room or your split level house really does split!

Your dream house turns into an expensive nightmare

To help prospective homeowners avoid such nightmares, the Cascade County Conservation District has published a booklet — "Dream House or Nightmare?" — intended to help homeowners evaluate that most basic part of any home the soil it sits on

And if you'd like a copy, address your request to Dream House, c/o 4930 9th Avenue South, Great Falls, Montana

montana's Treasure Acres

Since 1948, the eyes, ears and voice of Montana's "dirt-farmers" and ranchers—longtime environmentalists, every one!

Vol. XXIV No. 1 January/February, 1972

TREASURE ACRES is the official publication of the Montana Association of Conservation Districts and is published bi-monthly in the interests of encouraging the judicious utilization of our most valuable natural resources—soil and water.

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— about the cover —

Longtime Montana conservationists A. G. (Slim) Slattery, Bob Anderson and Pete Jackson (l-r) at NACD's D.C. annual meeting; Myrna Bouchey, a key figure in helping prepare the MACD/OSPA grant proposal, "Dream House or Nightmare" (See Page 3); Gary Wicks, director of the re-organized and consolidated Department of Natural Resources and Conservation in an office photo . . . all a part of the "big picture"—and the achievement of quality living"—on earth!

HOUSEKEEPING . . .

It's Got To Be Done!

Housekeeping is never a pleasant chore (ask any housewife!), but there comes a time that it must be done in any home . . . and in any association.

The Montana Association of Conservation Districts is embarked on one of the most ambitious programs ever attempted by a grassroots conservation group—a program advocated by the membership at the 1971 annual convention.

It's a good program, and one that can establish MACD as the rightful spokesman for many of the rapidly sprouting environmental/ecological interests. It's an important program in terms of Montana's future . . . and it's aimed directly at the youth of this state—the right target at the right time and with the right people in charge.

But any association is dependent upon its membership not only for good ideas . . . but for support of those ideas once they're accepted. Which is where the "housekeeping" comes in—without the complete, prompt and wholehearted support of the more than 50 conservation districts, state-level MACD can do little more than spin its wheels.

Read this issue of TREASURE ACRES . . . and the needs and the required action should be evident. How you respond will "tell the story" . . .

—RWF

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STATE DOCUMENTS

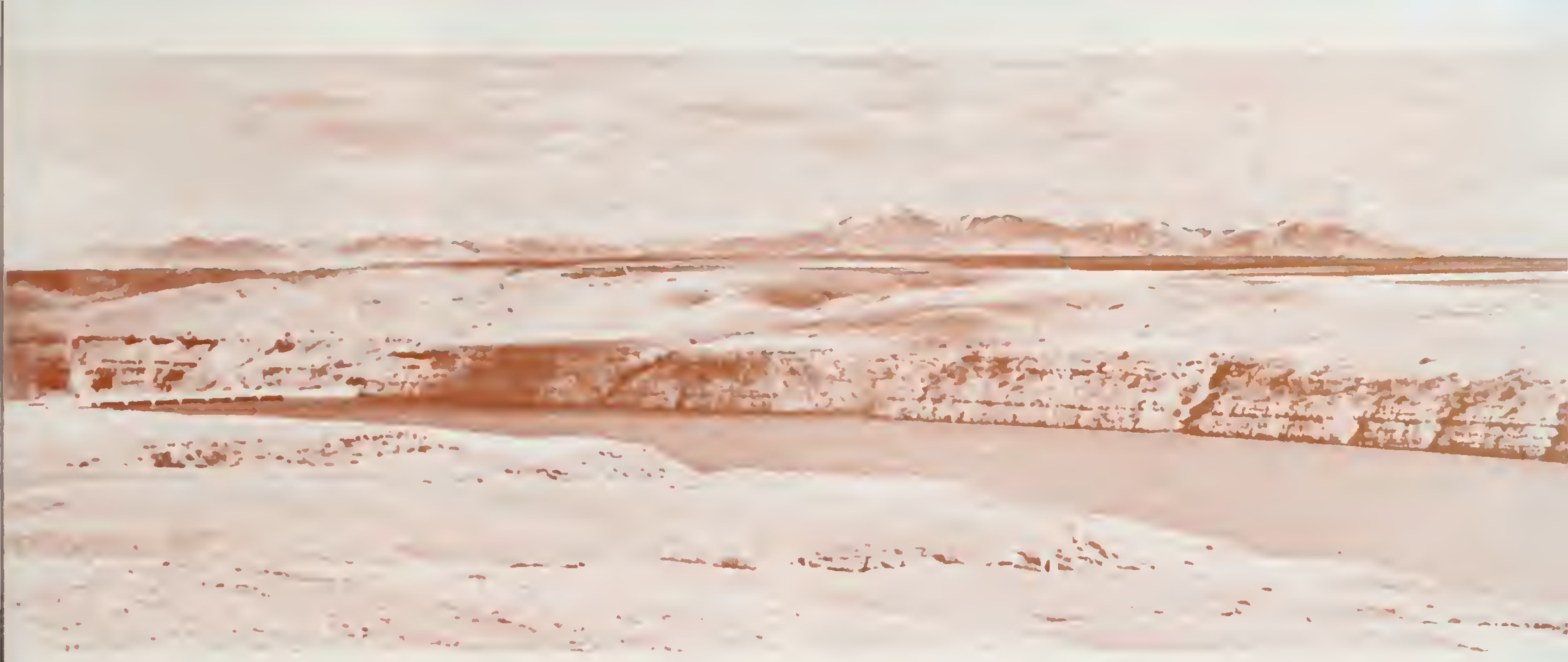
january/february 1972

Volume XXIV, No. 1

PUBLISHED BY THE MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

emphasis:

- MACD at NACD Conclave
- Education/Information Emphasis
- 'Dream House . . . or Nightmare?'
- Conservation 'in brief'
- Homage to Adad!



TO THE CASUAL observer, it's just rough rolling land, not unlike the hundreds of miles that border the Missouri River east of Great Falls. To members of the Cascade County Conservation District, however, the nearly 100 acres that were turned over to them by the Montana Power Company provides a unique study area.

Located approximately seven miles east of Great Falls on the north side of the Missouri, above Cochrane Dam, the 100-acre "outdoor classroom" will be used for environmental studies by school children of the area. (For further pictures and articles, see Page 3.)

Montana's Treasure Acres

Vol. XXXIV, No. 2 March/April/May, 1972

Regular school classrooms in the Great Falls area have just turned green with envy at the "competition"—a 100-acre "outdoor classroom" recently made available to the Cascade County Conservation District by the Montana Power Company.

Shown in part in the picture above, the area was leased to the CCCD on a public service basis by the MPCo.

Louis G. Brewer, Great Falls division manager for the MPCo., in making the land presentation, pointed out:

". . . We feel the Cascade County Conservation District in conjunction with the Soil Conservation Society of America and the Nature and Wildlife Society will manage this natural area for the benefit of many people of the Great Falls city and surrounding communities."

Present plans for development of the area include fencing and posting plus the construction of self-guided nature trails so that school children and other visitors can learn of the various plants and soils in the area.

Again in 1972, the Montana Association of Conservation Districts, in cooperation with Montana Associated Utilities, is sponsoring a high school level state-wide speech contest.

Subject for the 1972 contest is "Land Use Planning" with $500 in college scholarships to be awarded the three top winners in the state contest ($250, $150 and $100) to be held at Miles City, Nov. 14.

Any boy or girl attending high school, grades 9-12, in Montana is eligible to participate, according to Yugo Nayematsu, MACD education chairman in charge of the program. The winner and runner-up of individual high school contests, held earlier this spring, will meet in District-level competitions to be completed by Sept. 15. Area competitions will be held prior to Oct. 20.

The finalists from the six Area-level competitions will vie for scholarship honors at MACD's annual meeting, Nayematsu said.

Money for the scholarships is provided by MAU, statewide association of Montana's rural electric cooperatives, with Riley Childers, executive secretary, to make the final presentation at the Miles City meeting.

Deadline time is fast approaching for Montana's Conservation Districts planning to participate in MACD's "Conservation Yearbook for 1972," according to Ray Fenton, MACD public information chairman.

As previously announced, publication of the Yearbook is planned in conjunction with MACD's annual meeting program. Each of the state's Conservation Districts is asked to submit pictures and/or copy illustrating a key conservation project in their district which will then be featured in the Yearbook.

Deadline date for the districts to indicate their intention to participate in the program is 1 Sept.

Those districts able to help finance the publication by including a check for $50 with their notification of cooperation are asked to notify the state office by the same date. However, such payment is not mandatory, and Fenton urged that ALL districts try to participate in the Yearbook whether they are financially able to help finance the book or not.

"Unless every Conservation District in the state participates in providing copy and/or pictures, the concept of a Year book of Conservation must be meaningless," Fenton said.

Every time the phone rings at the offices of the MACD these days, everyone in the office grabs for it—hoping for "good news" on MACD's proposal for federal funding of its SEEK Project—a cooperative program submitted by the Montana Association of Conservation Districts and the State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

To date, the ringing phone has not produced tidings—either good or bad. Theoretically, the grant decisions for the next fiscal year were to have been announced prior to May 15. At this writing (June 30), the more worthy proposals (some 1,700) were submitted and MACD's was ranked in the top five per cent, according to unofficial word from Washington, D.C.) are still sitting on the desk of the U.S. Commissioner of Education, awaiting his final decision.

"Unfortunately," according to Ray Fenton, MACD's public information chairman and one of the drafters of the SEEK Project proposal, "the whole program appears to have become involved in a political log-jam.

"Despite repeated efforts to find out the status of the proposal, both individually and by members of Montana's Congressional delegation, nothing definitive has been released on MACD's program proposal. The lack of activity at the federal level was the reason, earlier this month, for the plea for help from Montana's conservation district supervisors—letters, wires, telephone calls to key education office personnel and our Congressional delegation," Fenton said.

"Although, we feel that the caliber of the proposed program will ultimately insure its favorable consideration, we are not so naive as to believe that right will always triumph," Bob Anderson, MACD president said. "And I hope that those of you so inclined will continue to 'keep the pressure on' until the project becomes a reality."

man and nature...1

INCREASINGLY, man is seeking ways to compromise his needs to the esthetic values of an undisturbed nature. Montana's Big Sky is recognized nationally as probably the foremost effort in the area of man and nature living together—in peace and harmony. The project represents a conscious attempt by the developers to reconcile man and nature (see representative pictures, left, and article below.)

Big Sky of Montana, a resort development located 40 miles south of Bozeman, could well provide a model for all such developments in the future—nationwide.

Recognized nationally as a major effort to maintain environment in a resort development, Big Sky's promoters utilized the expertise of land planning consultants and engineers to assure the finest overall ecological and environmental design available.

Big Sky seems destined as a controversial project for the foreseeable future, but regardless of the articulate arguments of both the proponents and opponents it must be conceded by responsible conservationists that a sincere effort is being made to maintain an ecological balance—while still providing for the "invasion" of man.

Included among admirable features of the project are all water, sewer and electrical services buried underground, no wells, no cesspools and no incinerators.

By Marge Uhlrich

Why belong to a District Auxiliary? As they say "That's a good question!" Let us find a good answer for those who are presently organized and for those who would like to be. Many women are interested in conservation and because of that concern are eligible to be members of the Auxiliary to the Association of Conservation Districts. However, unless there are organized guidelines with which to be affiliated, individual efforts often are not fulfilled. A voice is strengthened through local group membership and given prestige and guidance through affiliation with the State and National Auxiliaries.

In the District is where the Auxiliary is home—helping husband, neighbors, and the community to carry on a better conservation program, to encourage the application of conservation practices to farms, ranches and urban areas, to encourage supervisors to attend all District and State meetings.

Even the geography of Montana poses problems in any organization. But perhaps this is the greatest reason for the need of unity. Women must not isolate themselves and "let the world go on around us." To keep pace with the present they must shoulder their share of the burden of conservation problems and objectives. It is no surprise that women can be and are doing a fine job as district supervisors. Montana boasts our Carbon County Supervisor, Mrs. Fay Kuhlman, who will represent our Auxiliary at the Seminar on Land and Water Use to be held in Great Falls.

Supervisors would surely welcome the assistance of ladies in such activities as distributing Soil Stewardship materials, handling the publicity for district activities, assisting with speech contests and annual meetings.

With the approval and encouragement of the District Supervisors it is an easy procedure to organize an auxiliary—and can be a rewarding experience for the members and for the district. May I help?

in brief...

ANNUAL MEETINGS, election of supervisors and selection of Conservation District officers highlighted District activities since the last issue of TREASURE ACRES.

Ray Tomsheck has been re-elected chairman of the Toole County Conservation District. Herb Karst is vice Chairman, Larry Hoffman, secretary and Benjamin Zell, treasurer. Other supervisors are Raymond Zelenka, Marcus Lindberg, Lloyd Dumas, A. H. Goeddertz and Harold Simmes. Outstanding Conservation Farmer-Rancher award for 1971 was presented to Dale Heath.

Harold Hert has been elected to the Treasure County Conservation District Board of Supervisors. Other board members are Vice-Chairman Orville Campbell, Chairman Howard Hadden, Secretary Leslie Criswell, Treasurer Gerald Ferguson, Rich Howard and Robert Webb.

Dwane Christofferson and John Warmbrod have been re-elected to the board of supervisors of the Roosevelt County Conservation District. Bob Nyquist was named Outstanding Conservation Farmer for 1971. Auxiliary officers are Mrs. Art Parker, president, Mrs. Orton Kirkvold, secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. Eugene Larsen, vice president.

Earl Basset has been re-elected to the board of supervisors of the Petroleum Conservation District. Holdover members of the board are Douglas Delaney, Gary L. Gershmel, Kenneth Welter, S. E. Wiggins, Henry Lengemann and Clinton Arthur.

Orrin Fossum and Guy Wagner have been elected to the board of supervisors

By
Robert
[Ан]derson

Never has the need for 'communication heen made more evident than in the past two months as all of us literally held our breath while hoping for word from Washington, D C on the fate of MACD's 'Seek Project

With some word on the proposal expected almost daily, we have purposely held publication of this issue of TREASURE ACRES to include announcement of the decision We're still holding our breath but the affairs and activities of MACD continue to progress to the point that I must confess to complete bewilderment as to where to start on my "Report to the Members of MACD"

Realistically, much of what has been accomplished—and remains to be accomplished—must await reporting and discussion at our annual meeting in Miles City, Nov 12-14 At this point in time there is really no place to start and, as I mentioned at the start of this column, never have I been so aware of the need for more regular and more detailed communication—not only with our membership but with the general citizenry of Montana

But, above all, one thing needs interim comment—a point that is re-emphasized particularly in discussions elsewhere in this TREASURE ACRES on MACD's "SEEK Project"

The political clout of Montana's conservation districts has arrived at a "moment of truth" We either assume the leadership in conservation/environmental/ecological issues TODAY, or we may relinquish our opportunity for all time The key to our meaningful future may well rest with the outcome of our efforts to work with our educators in the SEEK program.

In short, do we as pioneers in conservation practice and education still have the necessary political clout to get SEEK approved and get on with the job of helping train our youth in sound conservation—environmental—practices? The answer may well come in the action on SEEK.

Much has been said (and written) on the diminishing influence of the nation's rural areas on the decisions of Congress Hopefully, our particular case in point will prove that we do indeed still have an ear at the federal level !

man and nature...2

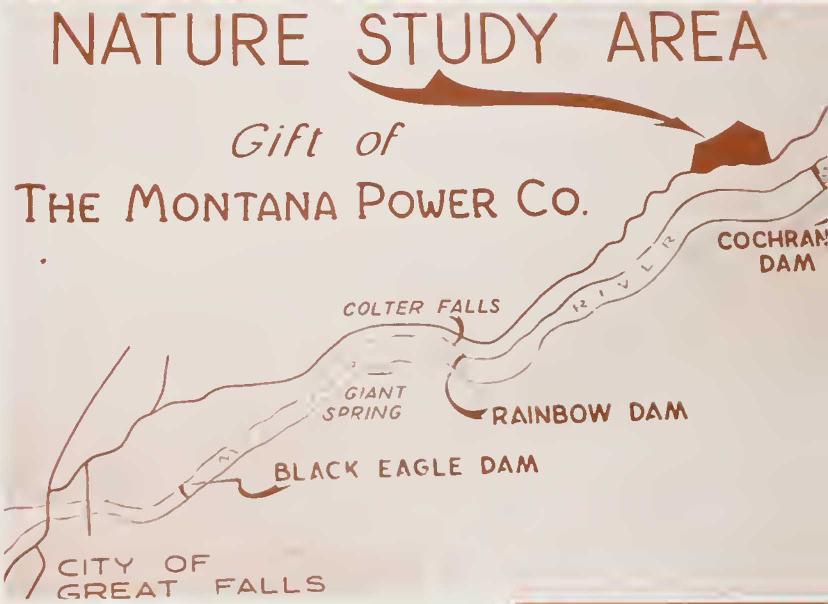
NOT ONLY must man learn to live in compatability with nature (see Big Sky feature on facing page), he must learn to set aside areas for the study of nature—so that he may better know how to conserve and protect the environment. This, in essence, is the guiding philosophy of the 100-acre "outdoor classroom" recently leased to the Cascade County Conservation District where nature is to be left undisturbed (note pictures, right, and article below.)

Future generations of school children from northcentral Montana will be able to view an area bordering the Missouri River—almost as it was when Lewis and Clark traveled the river a century ago.

Thanks to the foresight of the Montana Power Company, a 100-acre "outdoor classroom" has been made available as a Managed Natural Area for nature students of all ages—supervised by the Cascade County Conservation District and assisted by the Soil Conservation Society of America, the Nature and Wildlife Society and the Society for Range Management.

In contrast to the Big Sky of Montana project—but not in conflict—CCCD's unique study area will be preserved in its natural state.

Thus land utilization planners of tomorrow will be better able to design projects such as Big Sky . . . or recommend that man not upset delicate ecological balances when such proposed projects obviously will cause irreparable damage.



...in brief

of the Valley County Conservation District

Ray Garberg and Boyd Tymofichuck have been re-elected to the board of supervisors of the Daniels County Conservation District

Alex Barclay has been named Outstanding Conservation Farmer award winner by the Garfield County Conservation District. Kenneth Coulter, John W. (Bill) Billing and Cecil Weeding were re-elected to the board of supervisors.

Henry VanHoorn has been elected to the board of supervisors of the Gallatin Valley Conservation District Also elected was John Buttelman, John Schutter, Norman Torgerson, Mervy Long and Lawrence Laird Chan Cooper was named Outstanding Conservation Farmer for 1971

Reorganization of the Fergus County Conservation District has been completed with Bradley Parrish, chairman, Larry Barber vice chairman, Gene Bricker, treasurer and Mrs Betty Haight, secretary Other supervisors include Garde Peterson Jr , Richard Delaney, Otto Jensen and newly elected William J Snapp Jr

Kenneth Schurch and Cliff Benson have been elected to the board of supervisors of the Deer Lodge Valley Conservation District. New officers include John Vanisko, chairman; John Hellenback, vice chairman, and Schurch, treasurer.

L T Robbins and James Hanson have been re-elected to the board of supervisors of the Jefferson Valley Conservation District Also elected was Walter Steingruber Other board members are Harry Dawson, John Heide Jr., and Fred L Bell

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Since 1948 the eyes, ears and voice of Montana's "dirt farmers" and ranchers, longtime environmentalists, every one!

Vol XXIV No 2 — March/April/May 1972

TREASURE ACRES is the official publication of the Montana Association of Conservation Districts, and is published in the interests of encouraging the judicious utilization of our most valuable natural resources — soil and water.

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— about the cover —

Pete Jackson, NACD Area Director for Montana, and Billings Attorney John Sheehy relax during the final luncheon meeting of the NACD Northern Plains area meeting held recently at Jackson Hole, Wyo., at which Sheehy was the main speaker. A view of the recently acquired CCCD nature study area (see pages 1 & 3). A progress report photo of Hill County's Beaver Creek project Phil Korell and Eric Iverson, architects for the Big Sky development (see Page 2). All a part of the "big picture" for this issue of TREASURE ACRES and the search for "quality living" on earth!

'Time Is A - Fleeting'

"Some environmentalists would have the environmental education program support an expanded version of traditional conservation education. Others would build on the tradition of outdoor education. Some scientists see it as a form of applied science education; social scientists would direct it toward the study of man-made environments.

"Effective environmental education must combine all of these elements and serve as a vehicle for bringing about innovation and reform in our educational systems. Such reform must change not only what is taught but also how it is taught. Environmental education must emphasize the use of the environment in the education process itself and carry on throughout an individual's lifetime. . . "

So says Robert Gilkey, director of the Office of Environmental Education, in the introduction to guidelines of "The New Environmental Education Program of the U.S. Office of Education."

A more apt statement of the objectives of MACD's "SEEK Project" could not have been devised (and the guidelines had not been published at the time MACD made application for federal funding of its "Search for Effective Environmental Knowledge" project.)

Conceded by Montana educators and conservationists alike as one of the most ambitious and broadly based environmental projects ever submitted, SEEK languishes on the desk of the Commissioner of Education, S. P. Marland Jr., awaiting only the decision as to whether high-level federal officialdom is willing "to put its money where its mouth is."

Hopefully, political log-rolling will not doom this most exciting and challenging conservation-education project . . . but, as they say, "time is a-fleeting!"

—RWF

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1972
Volume XXIV, No. 2

PUBLISHED BY THE MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

emphasis:

- SEEK Project Proposal Rejected
- Outdoor Classroom Dedicated
- Beaver Creek Project Progresses
- Big Sky—Man and Nature
- Conservation 'in brief'

"Awareness Leads to Action" will be the theme of MACD's 31st Annual Convention, scheduled for the Red Rock Village in Miles City, Nov. 12-14. With program arrangements still tentative, the general format will follow that of last year's convention, according to Robert Anderson, Fort Benton, MACD president.

A panel, keyed to the convention's theme, is scheduled for 10 a.m., featuring Leonard Campbell, regional counsel for the Environmental Protection Agency, Denver; Gary Wicks, director of Montana's Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; Rep. James Lucas, Miles City, and Robert Lyman, president of the Montana Wildlife Federation, Miles City.

Monday's keynote address will be delivered by Floyd Kinsinger, president of the Society for Range Management, Denver.

The awards banquet will be at 7 p.m., Monday, preceded by a social hour.

Tuesday will feature the annual directors' breakfast at 7 a.m., followed by the annual MACD business meeting, starting at 8:30 a.m. The SWCDMI business meeting will be at 11 a.m., followed by the wrap-up luncheon with Kenneth L. Williams, field representative/director of the Western Regional Technical Service Center, SCS, Portland, Ore., as speaker plus the statewide finals of the MACD-Montana Associated Utilities High School speech contest.

Registration will open Sunday, 12 Nov., in the lobby of the Red Rock Village with state directors and the resolutions committee scheduled for afternoon meetings. A tour is planned during the afternoon for those not involved in meetings.

Vesper services will be held, starting at 7:30 p.m., following a no-host dinner and preceding get-acquainted sessions set for 8:30 p.m.

Registration will continue Monday, starting at 8 a.m., with the opening session of the convention set at 8:30 a.m. Starting at 9 a.m., internal MACD reports will be given — the president's, the treasurer's, ladies' auxiliary, NACD director's and State Conservation Commission.

montana's Treasure Acres

Vol. XXIV, No. 3 June/July/August, 1972

MACD annual meeting
Nov. 12 - 14
Miles City

"How to publish a "Conservation Yearbook for 1972" in conjunction with MACD's annual convention program with participation from only five of Montana's 58 districts has been the knotty problem facing MACD directors since the September deadline for entries came . . . and passed.

The inevitable answer? Don't publish!

With no alternative in sight, it has been determined that those Conservation Districts who provided pictures and/or copy for inclusion in the proposed "Yearbook" would be provided layout space in the convention issue of TREASURE ACRES comparable to that planned for the Yearbook (so they would at least know how it would look) . . . and those who accompanied their layouts with a check for $50 would have their money refunded.

Accordingly, and hopefully, the convention issue of this publication will double as a convention program and as a "briefed" version of what was to have been the MACD "Conservation Yearbook for 1972."

With time of the essence, Editor Ray Fenton has urged those districts who have not already forwarded copy/pictures do so immediately.

Latest word from HEW's Office of Environmental Education is that MACD's "Search for Effective Environmental Education" (SEEK) Project will not be funded for the current fiscal year. Developed in cooperation with the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the SEEK Project was adjudged as lacking "depth and diversity" and in "detail" as to the proposed participation of the OSSPI.

Rather than attempting to summarize the reaction of MACD to the federal-level critique of the project, it was felt by drafters of the proposal that excerpted portions of a letter to Sen. Lee Metcalf, as submitted by MACD Public Information Chairman Ray Fenton following notification of the rejection, might be appropriate and explanatory:

"Particularly disturbing to officials of MACD, a non-profit state association of conservationists with more than three decades of practical experience in sound environmental practice, was the fact that all three of the proposals approved for funding in Montana for this year dealt with the 'development of curriculum' — independent of the State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

"Approving further 'development of curriculum' is directly comparable to naming another committee to 'study the problem.' We in Montana know the problem, have developed curriculum . . . and now would like to be able to put already existing curriculum into use with our school-age youth.

"That objective is likely to make little statewide progress in Montana this year under the programs approved for funding by the Office of Environmental Education. Certainly the concept of a cooperative, community-involved environmental education, as identified by the *Handbook on Preparing Proposals* seems to have been almost forgotten as a funding criteria . . .

(Continued on Page 3)

Only question remaining on the Search for Effective Environmental Knowledge (SEEK) Project (see story above) is one that now must face the annual convention of MACD. Simply stated, it is:

"Do we ride slowly and majestically into the sunset and forget SEEK — or do we continue the fight for its acceptance . . . ?"

To expect educators to overcome decades of limited emphasis on the environment and suddenly to come forth with full-grown programs of environmental education is unrealistic, according to Claude D. Crowley, SCS information specialist writing in "Today's Education/NEA Journal."

So what's a teacher to do? Crowley suggests that one answer is "to use the people already in your community who are trained in environmental specialties." How about the District members of MACD?

Experts predict that effective institutional adjustment to heavier environmental education demands may take years. Meanwhile, back at the school, the teacher faces the problem now, not later!

And that is what MACD's "Seek Project" is all about . . . are we up to the challenge?

Aloha — "hello and/or goodbye" is how Webster's defines the cryptograph revealed in the large cap letters on this page . . . reading from the upper left corner. (Incidentally, how many readers spotted the "READ" in the last issue of TREASURE ACRES?)

This issue's cryptogram, not unintentionally, may herald the future or demise of TREASURE ACRES in its present format. Introduced experimentally and in conjunction with the SEEK Project proposal, MACD faces a funding decision on the future of the "new" TREASURE ACRES during convention deliberations at Miles City.

So . . . this could well be "hello" or "goodbye." Aloha!

Problem Area...

Tour Co-chairmen:
Wendell Thacker, Area Conservationist
Lyall Schaefer, ASCS Fieldman

Tour Guides:
Al Heckerman, SCS
Dave Buchanan, SCS

...and a "little" waste water goes a long, long way...!

"Water, water, everywhere . . ." could well be the title for the picture series shown on this page.

"That's good," you say. "No, it isn't" say the soil and water experts for the Fairfield Bench (northwest of Great Falls). They explain further:

The water shown on this page is irrigation "waste water" — left over after an "order" from a farmer and before the main irrigation source gates can be closed. Water with no place to go — except to deep-cut a ravine in responding to the laws of gravity (upper photo) or to gather top-soil from a fertile valley on its course to, in this case, Muddy Creek and the Sun River.

Thus has water, the dream and the need of mankind, become a "problem" for those involved in and with the Greenfield Irrigation District of the Fairfield Bench. Irrigation overage, a canal system that delivers little more than half of measured output to its ultimate destination, antiquated control systems and gates, saline seep and swampland invasion of cultivated fields.

What to do? Ditch lining (as per the picture, lower left), drain tile (note the drain tile inspection well pictured on the cover of this issue), modernized gate control systems, relocated ditch systems, farmer-rancher education on water utilization.

But they all cost money — lots of it!

"Water, water, everywhere . . .!"

By Marge Uhlrich

There's a whole wonderful world of exciting surprises beyond measure available for discovery by everyone with an open, questioning mind. There's a whole, great universe filled with a multitude of mysteries. Some are within mankind's range of understanding, many are beyond the present mental concept of today's earth inhabitants, impossible yet to understand, even to suspect, but the evidence is that the wonders are there.

Parallel with the great-sized marvels of creation, is another equally amazing world of tiny things, so small that we are not aware of their existence. These small creatures and plants in their myriads of varieties are uniquely designed as part of a completely balanced environment.

It is in knowing and recognizing this fact, even within mankind's present small capability for comprehension, that one must face the indisputable truth that our Creator is an engineer with a scope of knowledge that staggers the imagination.

Certain kinds of engineers we can understand as experts in their respective fields. Mankind has developed extremely able physicists, chemists, geologists, scientists of countless specialized talents, but there is only One who is equal to all these specialists combined. It is an awesome concept, to state it mildly.

The more one realizes the complexity and the vastness of mankind's surroundings, the more urgent becomes the necessity for helping to maintain that natural balance as it was intended, and wilful destruction of natural resources appears as something of a sacrilege.

This is the basic reason, as seen by this writer, that the need exists for conservation practices. Conservation Districts are one effective arm of the ever-increasing group of people who are aware of the many dangers to our environment through wide-spread dissipation of natural resources. Conservation Districts are an effective force in public education and in services available to the general public.

The field of conservation is wide open to the influence of women, who often can offer perceptive guidance due to their natural protective attributes. Conservation should be an over-all effort of all citizens regardless of sex or age, combining to maintain the healthful balance as nearly as possible as it was originally ordained.

Montana's Conservation Districts, in conjunction with the National Association of Conservation Districts, offer a powerful leadership backed by a tremendous store of facts, the results of studies already made, and constantly being enlarged.

Women can help by being informed and willing to serve wherever the conservation effort needs the support of their own special viewpoints. A wider participation by women in organized conservation activities can provide a wider over-all view of problems and lead to more lasting and effective solutions. The work is intensely interesting, and rewarding in many ways.

This writer is proud, and at the same time humble, in being a part of the organized effort to keep our natural resources ever fresh, clean and abundant so that we all can enjoy indefinitely the benefits they can continually produce.

FAY KUHLMAN,
Bearcreek, Montana

By Robert nderson

"Awareness Leads to Action" has been chosen as the theme of this year's convention . . . a most apt choice and a theme with particular relevance in the proceedings of our 31st Annual Convention.

We've got some most important business to take care of . . . vital to the future and growth of the Montana Association of Conservation Districts. And knowing the solid, grassroots makeup of MACD's membership I know that awareness of our priority needs WILL lead to positive and progressive action.

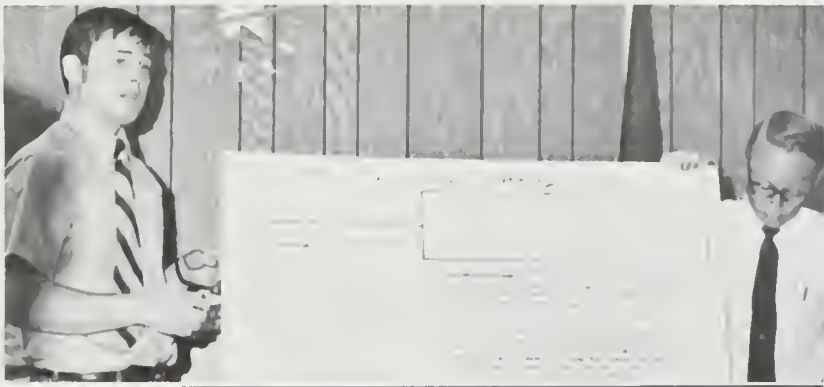
Certainly one of the key items on the agenda is a recommended change in our dues structure, keyed to a percentage of our individual county taxable valuation. We've been working on this approach for a long time in an effort to establish a more realistic and workable budget for your state association. Hopefully, you will agree that your board of directors has come up with an equitable solution to providing adequate financing for the almost innumerable priorities facing the state association.

We've become a vital force in conservation in Montana in the last few years and, unfortunately, (or fortunately, depending on your outlook), this new leadership role imposes a financial responsibility upon us all to be able to stay abreast and ahead of the increasing demands on the expertise of Montana's pioneer conservationists and environmentalists.

Action is the name of the game for us, and we must deliver. For 1972-73, the action will start at Miles City, Nov. 12-14. Your presence and participation can truly make it a most significant "happening," and I'm looking forward to a record turnout!

Cash prizes and awards were presented to the winners of a grade school conservation poster contest by the Liberty County Conservation District. Eighty-four posters were entered in the contest.

LAND USE planning, in all its aspects, was the subject of a series of seminars, sponsored by the Montana League of Cities and Towns, Office of State Examiner and Department of Planning and Economic Development, held in Missoula, Kalispell, Miles City, Wolf Point, Havre, Bozeman and Laurel. Shown at right are Byron Roberts and Jim Richard, PED associate planners, during the Havre presentation.



Several key long-term NACD objectives have become reality with the passage and signing of the Rural Development Act of 1972. The new law, which contains a host of provisions for revitalizing America's countryside, sets forth a series of new authorities for the Soil Conservation Service that will enable conservation districts to move forward more effectively with their resource program, according to John Wilder, NACD president.

These include:

—Federal cost-sharing for water quality management and authority for agricultural pollution control and solid waste disposal in P.L. 566 watershed projects and Resource Conservation and Development Projects.

—Authorization of the use of long-term contracts for land treatment in watershed areas. This is an extension of the principle established in the Great Plains Conservation Program whereby landowners are enabled to receive technical and financial assistance over a 10-year period to ensure orderly and complete installation of needed conservation measures.

--Approval of the use of federal funds available under other government programs to secure land rights in watershed programs. This will aid in expanding multiple use of reservoir sites.

—Provisions for sharing up to 50 per cent of the cost of water storage in watershed projects for municipal and industrial purposes.

—Other authorities for rural community water supply and fire protection in RC&D Projects and a periodic land resource inventory and monitoring program.

A potentially highly significant amendment which was added to the legislation during its passage through Congress authorizes a nationwide program of long-term Rural Environmental Protection contracts, a central objective of NACD policy for many years.

(————)

In general, resource programs got a boost from Congress who approved appropriations for USDA for the current fiscal year. NACD forecasts indicate districts should fare better than last year; funds for major SCS programs were increased; there will be more money for REAP cost-sharing; additionally there were some gains tor research.

One important step was to reappropriate money in the 1972 budget, approved but frozen by the OMB. This action affects research at Miles City and Sidney.

In addition, Congress increased by $40,000 the funds for research on saline seepage at the Northern Plains Soil and Water Research Center, Sidney (Editor's note: Thanks largely to Montana's Congressional delegation and the efforts by officers and members of MACD.)

SEEK Project

(Continued from Page 1)

"Thus, those of us with an interest in action-education for conservation and environment can be excused if we look on programs for further curriculum development with a somewhat jaundiced eye — as a repetitive and unproductive exercise which can, at best, but delay the start of a broadly based environmental education in Montana's school system. The approved efforts in this area, as determined by the Office of Environmental Education for this fiscal year, must necessairly be so fragmented and isolated in instance as to have virtually no statewide impact or application!

". . . (MACD) would suggest that the Office of Environmental Education has critical need of more than lip service to the objectives and goals of the program they espouse. Almost without exception the funding of projects during the past two years has been by block grant to areas, and the area rather than the proposal's worth seems to have been the overwhelming criteria. We cannot but protest this approach as most unfair and a definite deterrent to the development of program(s) objectively designed to upgrade the quality and effectiveness of environmental education.

in brief...

BIG SANDY Conservation District reaffirmed its concern over the SEEK Project in a recent Board resolution: "Be it resolved that the BSCD go on record as deploring HEW's rejection of MACD's SEEK Project; Further, BSCD strongly unges officers of MACD and Montana's State Superintendent of Public Instruction to resubmit this project and continue to seek its approval.

NEW PRESIDENT of the Soil Conservation Society of America is A. B. Linford, Montana Conservationist. The election of Linford was announced at the 27th annual meeting of the professional society of soil and water conservationists held in Portland, Ore.

ALMOST 100 Beaverhead County ranchers, businessmen and their wives attended a one-day Range Tour sponsored by the Beaverhead Conservation District and the Southwestern Montana Stockmen's Association. The tour was held on the Donovan Ranch.

WILLIAM PARNELL, Blaine County Conservation District supervisor, has been named as ASCS advisory county committeeman with the responsibility of "encouraging more involvement by minority farmers in the actual operations of the ASCS program."

FRED MARTIN, editor of the Livingston Enterprise and Park County News, has been presented with a distinguished service award by the Park County Conservation District. Board supervisors for 1972 include Marvin Swandal, chairman; Bruce Malcolm, vice chairman; Ray Keefer, John Ragsdale and Carl Johnson, members, and Judy Rafdal, secretary-treasurer.

ALMOST 1,000 Flathead County eighth graders took a first-hand look at conservation during a tour sponsored by seven agencies including the Flathead County Conservation District. The program dates back to 1950.

montana's Treasure Acres

Since 1948, the eyes, ears and voice of Montana's "dirt-farmers" and ranchers—longtime environmentalists, every one!

Vol XXIV, No 3 June/July/August, 1972

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Area V—Charles Lane, Drummond, John Vanisko, Deer Lodge
Area VI—Carl Johnson, Livingston, Frank Thompson, Wolf Creek
Directors-at-large—Walt Dion, Havre, Dale Marxer, Great Falls

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Budget and Finance—John Vanisko, Deer Lodge, Education—Yugo Nayematsu, Hardin, Farm Forestry—Don Naegli, Belknap, Great Plains—Oscar Hippe, Froid, Legislative—Walt Dion, Havre, Program and Outlook—Harold Jansen, Baker, Public Lands and Water Resources—Art Christensen, Dillon, Public Relations—Ray Fenton, Great Falls, Recreation and Wildlife—Frank Thompson, Wolf Creek, Research—Everett Snortland, Conrad

— about the cover —

"Whose Garden Was This," on a backgruund of parched and cracked earth, should need no explanation to Montanans — they know whereof the writer speaks! The four panel pictures revolve around the picture feature on Page 2 and show (t-b) ASCS-men Leo Kolstad and Lyall Shaefer; Extension Agent Cy Corlett; SCS Tour Guides Al Heckerman and Dave Buchanan; and a drain tile inspection well on the Fairfield Bench, northwest of Great Falls.

'A-Coming!...

National Land Use Policy

Bills on national land use policy, in both the Senate and the House, continue to inch inexorably forward . . . and while conservation districts are not specifically mentioned in either bill currently in favor, Montana's 58 districts would be well advised to keep a watchful eye.

Both S. 632 and H.R. 7211 have been reported favorably by the respective Interior and Insular Affairs Committees. The purpose of both would be to foster the development of a more rational system for allocating the use of land throughout the nation.

The House bill includes a series of recommendations for dealing with the nation's public lands; the Senate bill does not.

The major thrust of both pieces of legislation would be to provide grants to the states over a period of years to help them finance land use planning programs. The Senate bill would authorize $100 million per year for eight years; the House bill $35 million per year for three years.

The key to effective land use planning legislation will undoubtedly be the relationships which the conservation districts can establish with the state agency assigned by the governor to be in charge of state land use planning. And it is here that Montana's districts would be wise to be informed . . . and aware. —RWF

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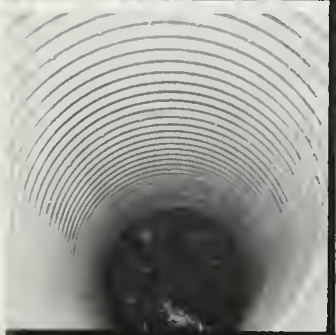

june/ july/ august 1972

Vol. XXIV, No. 3

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June-July Aug 1972
STATE DOCUMENTS
OCT 25 1972

montana's Treasure Acres

"whose garden was this...?"

Whose garden was this?
It must have been lovely
Did it have flowers?
I've seen pictures of flowers,
And I'd love to have
smelled one . . .

Whose river was this?
You say it ran freely?
Blue was its color?
I've seen blue in some pictures,
And I'd love to have been
there . . .

Whose gray sky was this?
Or was it a blue one?
You say there were breezes?
I've heard records of breezes,
And I'd love to have felt
one . . .

Tell me again, I need to
know . . .
The forests had trees . . . ?
The meadows were green . . . ?
The ocean was blue . . . ?
And birds really flew . . . ?
Can you swear that it's true?

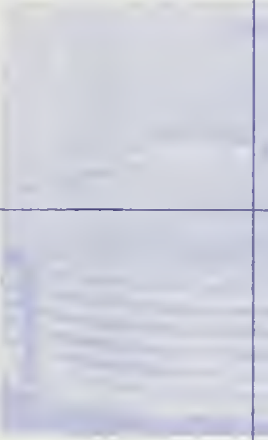
—Tom Paxton

PUBLISHED BY THE MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

emphasis:

- MACD Annual Meeting
- Fairfield Bench CRD Tour
- Land Use Seminar
- Funding Outlook (1972-73)

water...water...water...water...water... ...water...water...water...water...water water... ...water water... ...water water... ...water water... WATER!



-- a constant concern of conservationists

Our district is semi-arid and over the years most of the feasible small stockwater dams have been built. There is, however, one practical source of water which remains virtually untapped at this time. This is the waters of the Marias and Missouri Rivers, which border two sides of the district. Now that low-cost pipe is available, as well as more efficient trenching machines, water may be moved many miles at relatively low expense.

One of the major problems of rangeland improvement in the Big Sandy Conservation District is stock water. A group of ranchers consisting of Jerry Halter, Charles Tordik and Mel Hoge decided to alleviate their problem. Quantity of dependable water and proper location which enhances proper range use needed for sustained cattle numbers prompted this group to look into the possibility of a pipeline from the Missouri River. Several pastures were short of summer and fall water. To get use from unused portions of these pastures, a pipeline six miles long was designed to supply water to ten tanks. The lift to the highest tank was 200 feet. It was buried six feet to prevent frost damage.

We feel there are many possibilities of this sort along the Missouri and Marias Rivers as well as other rivers in the semi-arid portion of Montana.

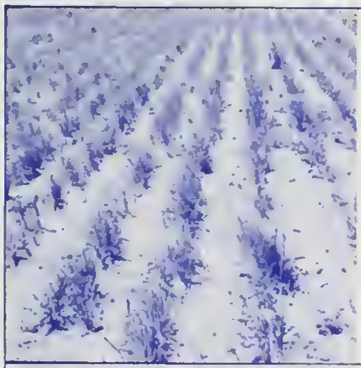
BOARD:

Keith Edwards, Marvin Works, Bill Sibra, Elmer Lund, Milan Pavlovick; John Hennelly, Ray Aman; Larry Diacon, Carmen Farley, Ernest Bahnmiller, Gary Hayward, Leon McConkey

Box 218
Big Sandy, Mt.
59520

Big Sandy Conservation District

range renovation . .



Range Seeding — *First-year stand of Thickspike Wheatgrass, Green Needlegrass, Slender Wheatgrass on Gary Heilig ranch. Final plan calls for 1,000 acres back to native grasses and 300 acres back to Crested Wheatgrass.*

Range Renovation — *Toolbar with 7" shovels on 12" centers was used by the Mitchell Grazing Association to get rid of clubmoss grams grass and cactus. The area will come back heavy to Western and Wheatgrass and Needle and Threadgrass.*

Native range seeding, pasture planting, range renovation, and planned grazing systems — this is how the operators in the Blaine County Conservation District are increasing their income.

Blaine County has over 1,700,000 acres of rangeland, 50 - 70 percent in fair to poor condition. Over $1 million added income could be realized annually if all the rangeland was in good to excellent condition.

Interest in improving rangeland is building with each passing year. Last year alone saw 3,000 acres of marginal cropland and low producing rangeland seeded back to tame grass species for early spring grazing.

Range renovation is just starting to catch the interest of the operators in Blaine County. With the large Club Moss infestations north of the Milk River, renovation is almost a necessity if rangeland is to be improved.

Each year additional acres are being renovated with excellent results. Production is increased and runoff from snow melt and heavy rains is being stopped.

Roy Nash, chairman of the Blaine County Conservation District board of supervisors, summed up the interest in range improvement by stating he would like to see Blaine County the first county in the state to reach the goal of 80% of the rangeland in excellent condition.

BOARD:

Roy Nash, Harold Paulsen, Gerald Munson, Herman Friede, James McCann; Bill Parnell, Jim Ashton

Box 427
Chinook, Mt.
59523

Blaine County Conservation District

By
Robert
Anderson

Welcome to your "Awareness Leads to Action" convention!

Due largely to the untiring efforts of a lot of people during the past 30 years, MACD starts its fourth decade of service to Montana conservation in a leadership role of unparalleled opportunity . . . and challenge.

It is the challenge ahead during this next decade that will occupy most of our deliberation for the next few days here at Miles City. We've fought long and hard to be accepted as the rational voice of conservation in Montana. And we've won. Now it's up to us to deliver.

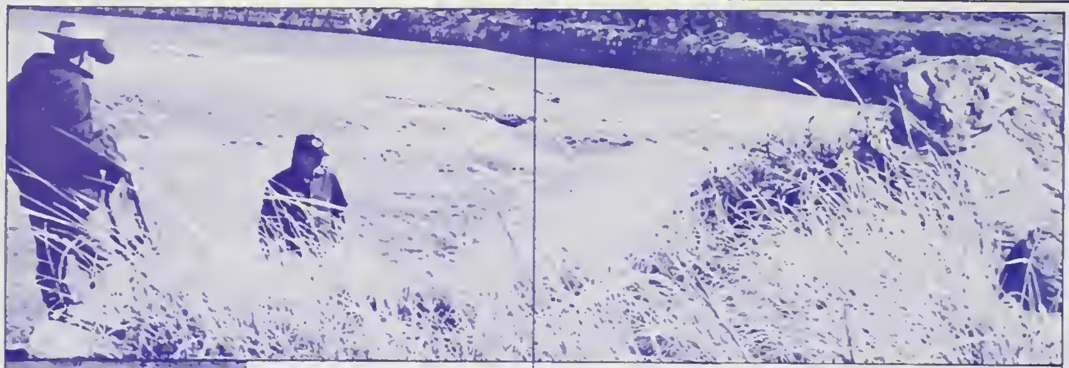
As delegates to MACD's 31st Annual Convention, you will be called upon to make important decisions as to budget and program — not only for the next year, but with an eye to the future. Our actions here will determine the future direction of MACD for decades to come.

The Ladies Auxiliary considers it a privilege to participate in this annual convention of the Montana Association of Conservation Districts . . . and extends warm wishes for its success.

We especially welcome the new faces among the ladies and encourage them to attend the general meetings and a chosen committee meeting, as well as our Ladies' Breakfast. As members of the Education Committee, we are particularly urged to attend that meeting. Your participation can be enjoyable and an inspiration to respond to the theme of this convention — "Awareness Leads to Action."

Nothing worthwhile is achieved without great effort or difficulties. If our Auxiliary with its helping hands can assist in any way toward reaching the goals of the Association of Conservation Districts, we will have fulfilled a purpose.

By
Marge
Uhlrich



'outdoor classroom'

Cascade County Conservation District now is a "property owner" . . . following the presentation of a 100-acre tract of land by the Montana Power Co., for use as an "outdoor classroom."

In cooperation with the Soil Conservation Society of America and the Nature and Wildlife Society, CCCD will manage the natural area for the benefit of all interested groups in the area.

Present plans for development of the area include fencing and posting plus the construction of self-guided nature trails so that school children and other visitors can learn of the various plants and soils in the "classroom" area. More than 88 different varieties of plants have been identified on the nature-study site, as well as a wide variety of soil types, small mammals and extensive bird life.

The land, owned by the Montana Power Co., was formally presented to CCCD in late April with Louis Brewer, Great Falls division manager for the company, and Dale Marxer, chairman of CCCD's board of supervisors, signing the lease agreement.

BOARD:
Dale Marxer, Richard Golie, Ralph Briggs, John Zeller, Joe Hepp; John Davis, Robert Engel, Ray Fenton
4930 9th Ave. S.
Great Falls, Mt.
59401

Cascade County Conservation District

major emphasis programs

Rangeland Improvement

Annual ranchers' field days have been very successful here. Last winter, the first annual winter meeting was held and appears to be a good follow-up to the field session in the fall. At this meeting more time is taken to discuss economics and current research information.

Data sheets were mailed to all ranchers the first of August to secure their involvement in a planned improvement program. Replies have been gratifying.

A Grassland Improvement Council was started in August, 1972. The ranchers are organized as a separate committee to carry out and implement the range program of the conservation district.

Alkali Control

The district's Special Project Area is going strong with plantings of perrenial vegetation and tall wheatgrass snow barriers for more efficient precipitation use in a continuous cropping program.

The effort for research funds was strongly supported. Although the request for federal funding was turned down, the district and other organizations — here and elsewhere in the state — haven't given up.

Wind Erosion Control Group

Two years of drouth during establishment of tall wheatgrass barriers have resulted in some failures for the Tunis Group. But there are some successful stands to begin this long-term project.

More plantings will be made because the group still believes in this potential for cropland improvement and as a way to use snow more efficiently.

The ARS has a 5-year study area going on the Molinario farm for technical information for this part of the state.

Soil Stewardship Week

The district's second annual ministerial tour of natural resources was enlarged this year. The board teamed up with the Big Sandy district to sponsor a county wide tour for members of the clergy

BOARD:
Tom Wharram, Russ Salsbury, Arnold Engellant, Vade Hamma, Robert Anderson; Chuck Chappell, Bill Reeves
Box 157
Fort Benton, Mt.
59442

Chouteau County Conservation District

Montana Association

31st Annu

CONVENTIO

Sunday, November 12 —
1:00 p.m. Registration (entra
2:00 p.m. MACD Director's
2:30 p.m. Tour: Ft. Keogh,
Triway Mobile Hom
4:30 p.m. Resolutions Comm
6:00 p.m. Vesper Service (Bu
8:30 p.m. Get Acquainted (

Monday, November 13 —
8:00 a.m. Registration C
Room — all day)
8:30 a.m. Opening Session
Vice President A.
Presentation of C
Welcome Addres
9:00 a.m. President's Repor
Treasurer's Repo
Ladies' Auxiliary
NACD Director's
State Conservati
Johnson, Chairm
9:30 a.m. Coffee, courtesy
10:00 a.m. Panel: "Awarene
Moderator.
Panelists: Leona
vironmental Prot
director, Departm
servation, Helena
Miles City; Robe
life Federation, M
Noon Keynote Lunche
Master of Ceremo
Invocation Rev.
Hirsch, Dennis Pl
Address: Floyd Ki
Management, De
1:30 p.m. Afternoon Sessio
(Areas caucus to
assignments)
2:00 p.m. Committee Meeti
Budget and Fina
Banquet Room)
Education, Yugo
Room)
Farm Forestry, D
Room)
Recreation and W
(Supper Club Roo
Program and Outl
co-chairmen (Sup
Great Plains, Os
Dance Floor)
Research, Everet
Dance Floor)
Public Lands and
chairman (Supper
Public Relations,
Lounge)
3:30 p.m. Coffee, courtesy
4:00 p.m. Committee Meeti
6:00 p.m. Social hour, Cou
Company of Mon
7:00 p.m. Awards Banquet
Master of Ceremo
Invocation: Rev.
Entertainment: J
Presentation of A
Goodyear
Newsletter
Outstanding
Supervisor A
President's A

Tuesday, November 14 —
7:00 a.m. Director's Breakfast (Cafe Banq
Bank and First National Bank
8:30 a.m. Business Meeting (Bunkhouse
9:00 a.m. Ladies Auxiliary Breakfast (Caf
Mrs H F Uhlrich, presiding
Invocation: Mrs. P. V Jac
Welcome: Mrs. James Ric
Response: Mrs. Cecil We
Speaker: Mrs Fred Kuhlm
of Supervisors, Carbon Co
Business Session: Mrs. H. F. U
10:00 a.m. Coffee, Courtesy of Miles City
10:30 a.m. Business Meeting, continued
11:00 a.m. SWCDMI Business Meeting
Noon Wrap-up Luncheon (Supper Cl
Invocation Rev. Darrel Marti
Speaker: John Miner, Resou
Regional Technical Service Cen
Speech Contest: Yogo Nayema
Presentation of Awards: Riley
tana Associated Utilites

ADJOURN

2:00 p.m. Director's Meeting (Cafe Banq

Conservation Districts
Convention
PROGRAM

to Bunkhouse Room)
ting (Cafe Banquet Room)
munity College, Pine Hills, Crafted Homes,

e Meeting (Cafe Banquet Room)
house Room) — Rev Donald Hamilton
ee and milk) Bunkhouse Room

nues (entrance to Bunkhouse

nkhouse Room)
Slattery, presiding
s FFA Chapter
Mayor Claude Jones
Robert M. Anderson
- Wendell Martinell
ort — Mrs. H F Uhlrich
ort — Peter V Jackson
Commission Report — Carl H

Miles City PCA and FLBA
Leads to Action," Charles Lane,

Campbell, regional counsel, En-
on Agency, Denver; Gary Wicks,
t of Natural Resources and Con-
ep James Lucas, Custer County,
ynam, president, Montana Wild-
City
Supper Club Room)
s Dale Marxer
erald Ebelt, Entertainment: Gail
r, Monte Mulkey
nger, president, Society for Range
r.
Bunkhouse Room)
ct directors and make committee

John Vanisko, chairman (Cafe

yematsu, chairman (Bunkhouse

Naegeli, chairman (Supper Club

life, Frank Thompson, chairman

Dale Marxer and Harold Jensen,
Club Dance Floor)
Hippe, chairman (Supper Club

hortland, chairman (Supper Club

ater Resources, Art Christensen,
ub — highway side)
Fenton, chairman (Supper Club

Miles City PCA and FLBA
continued
y of Elk River Concrete Products
a (Supper Club Room)
pper Club Room)
s: Wallace McRae
nd Rubesh
Grutkowski, Dr. John Forsberg
rds

pervisor
rds (15, 20 and 25 Years Service)
rd

Room), courtesy of First Security

om), Robert Anderson, presiding
anquet Room)

n
dson
g
Bearcreek, member of the Board
y Conservation District
ch
A and FLBA

Room)

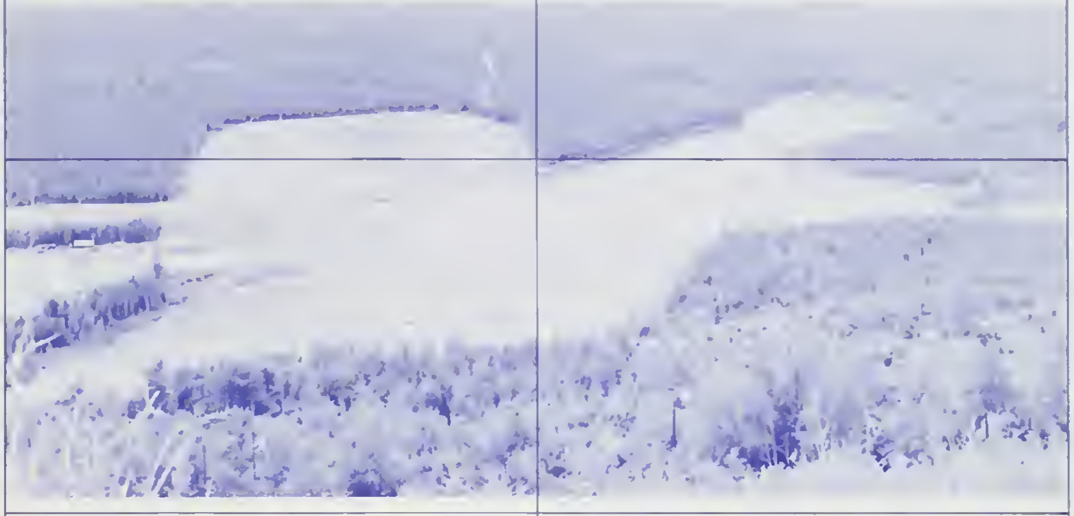
Development Specialist, West
Portland, Oregon
chairman
illoers, executive secretary, Mon-

ENT

Room)

conservation 'co-opmanship' . . .

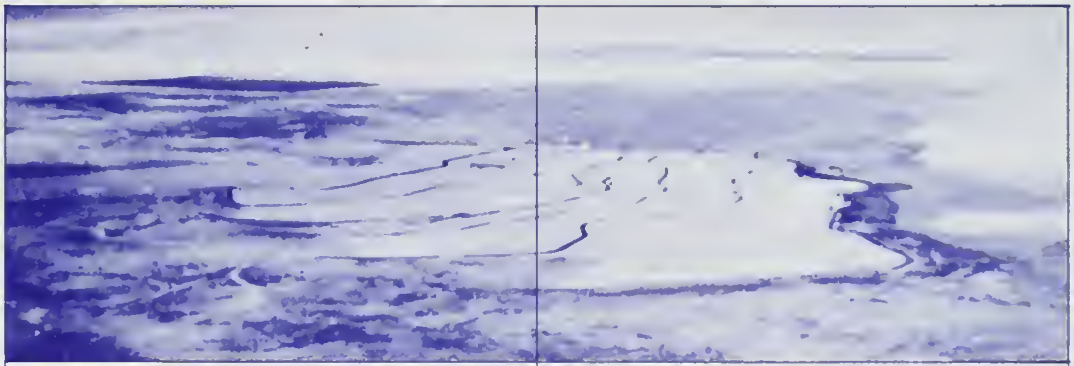
Cedar Creek Watershed Reservoir



BOARD:
Bill Kesler, Herb Koenig, Wes Roath, Robin Street, Marcus Hinrichs; Arnold Jacobsen
685 Sunset Blvd.
Kalispell, Mt.
59901

Flathead County Conservation District

Shown is an aerial view of the completed Cedar Creek Watershed Reservoir located two miles north of Columbia Falls. This project was co-sponsored by the Flathead County and Flathead Conservation District. Operation and maintenance will be by the City of Columbia Falls and Flathead County. Funding was by City of Columbia Falls with a loan from Farmers Home Administration and through Soil Conservation Service P.L. 566 watershed funding. The dam is 60 feet high. Reservoir has 1600 Ac. Ft. for flood control, 400 Ac. Ft. for municipal water and 100 Ac. Ft. sediment pool. Cost of the project was between one half and one million dollars.



semi-automatic waterspreading.

The main purpose of this system is to get maximum use of available water without wasting any out the spillways or letting water miss the dike system when no one is there to control it. The dikes are scraper dikes two feet high. The fill needed to construct the dikes was borrowed from higher areas above each dike. This eliminated waste areas and low spots that wouldn't drain.

The system is designed with a control dike 8,500 feet long and two and one-half feet high with an eight-foot wide concrete headgate to supply water to the contour dikes. The control dike allows water to bypass the contour dikes if necessary and is used to irrigate additional land adjacent to the waterspreading system.

Soil Conservation Service technicians designed this system with a one-foot elevation drop between dikes. Each dike has a center drain structure and an emergency spillway. The drain structure is a weir that also serves as a headgate for holding water between the dikes.

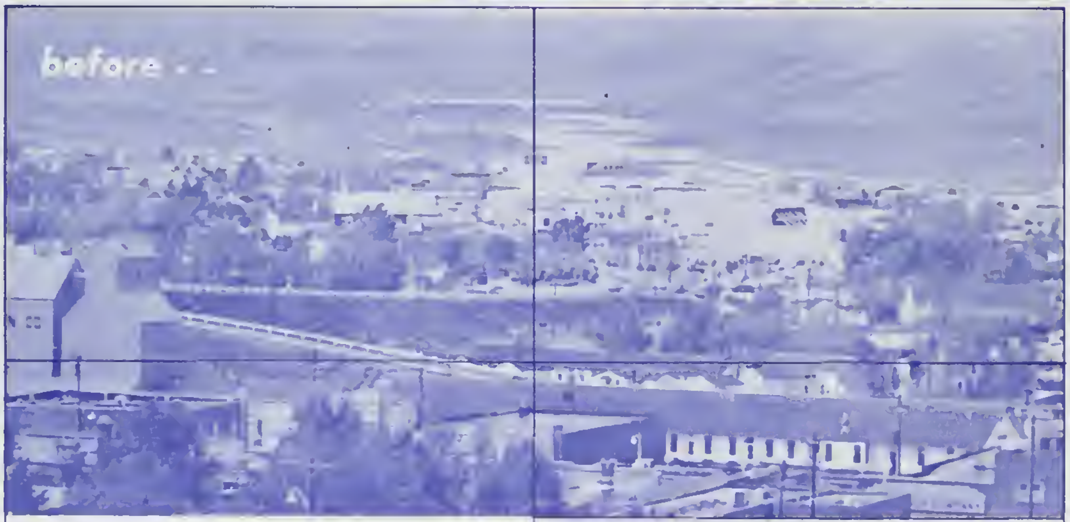
The weirs used in the spreader dikes are designed to hold a foot of water between each dike, then flow over the weir into the next dike without running the spillway. Therefore, only in emergencies will the spillway run. This is one of the main features of the system.

I'm sure most of you have either seen or had to cope with washed out spillways that need repairing in order to keep a dike system functioning as originally planned. With control of the water and use of the weirs there is no soil erosion in spillways and the water drops from one dike into the next while you are busy calving or with other ranch work. You do have to open the drain gates in the front of the weirs to release the water when the land has been properly irrigated.

This system changed one hundred and sixty acres of relatively unproductive land into a very productive hay meadow —Bill French

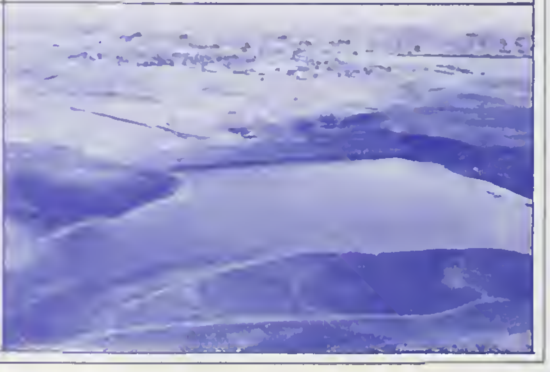
BOARD:
Jack Korsbeck, Leo Depuydt, William French, Lloyd Knudsen, LeRoy Costin
Box G
Malta, Mt.
59538

Phillips County Conservation District



The City of Shelby Watershed Project, jointly sponsored by the City of Shelby and the Toole County Conservation District ended this past year with the dedication of the project on June 19, 1971. Shown above is a view from the south side of town looking upstream at the wa.ershed during a flood. Lower right is an aerial view from the north.

after - -



BOARD:

Ray Tomscheck, Ray Zelenka, Harold Simnes, Herb Karst, Marvin Lindberg; A. H. Goeddertz, Lloyd Dumas.

Box 490
Shelby, Mt.
59474

Toole County Conservation District

1971 - 72 OFFICERS

President
ROBERT ANDERSON
Fort Benton
Vice President:
A. G. SLATTERY
Hardin
Secretary:
JEANNE BALUKA
Helena
Treasurer.
WENDELL MARTINELL
Butte

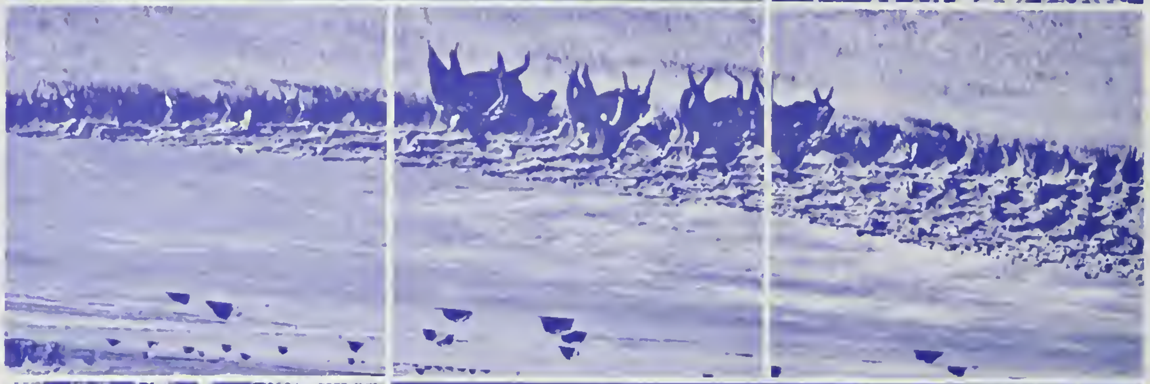
DIRECTORS

Area I:
Kenneth Coulter, Brusett
Oscar Hippe, Froid
Area II
Milo Hilstad, Circle
Harold Jensen, Baker
Area III:
Robert Anderson, Fort Benton
Everett Snortland, Conrad
Area IV:
Yugo Nayematsu, Hardin
A. G. Slattery, Hardin
Area V:
Charles Lane, Drummond
John Vanisko, Deer Lodge
Area VI:
Carl Johnson, Livingston
Frank Thompson, Wolf Creek
Directors-at-large:
Walt Dion, Havre
Dale Marxer, Great Falls

PAST PRESIDENTS

W. L. Staggs*	1943
F. S. Kalberg*	1944-45
Alfred Anderson	1946-47
Thomas Connolly*	1948
Gordon McGowan	1949-50
Ray Kimball	1951
Fay Crusch	1952
Clarence Popham	1953-54
Ted Pettyjohn	1955-56
Henry Evans*	1957-58
Oscar Hippe	1959-60
Leslie Criswell	1961-62
Frank Thompson	1963-64
Bill Kesler	1965-66
Pete Jackson	1967-68
Carl Johnson	1969-70

'Awareness Leads to Action'



Miles City
Red Rock Village
Nov. 12 - 14, 1972

Montana Association of Conservation Districts . . . 31st Annual Convention

A window opens on Montana conservation

— was to have been the title of MACD's 1972 Conservation Yearbook. It still is, although only seven (of 58) Districts sent in material to be published.

Thus, this brochure serves a double purpose — as the official program agenda of the 31st Annual Convention of the Montana Association of Conservation Districts . . . and as a necessarily abbreviated 1972 Conservation Yearbook (MACD's Board of Directors thought you might at least like to know what it could have been — and can be in 1973 IF all the Districts will resolve to participate in providing material).

On behalf of our Miles City hosts, may the 1972 Convention come up to your every expectation.

YOUTH TOOK over the entertainment responsibilities for MACD convention delegates during their luncheon end banquet programs and, as the pictures here would indicate, they "had a ball." Above, a youthful guitarist-singer delivers a sparkling number and, below, a future Frank Sinatra "sends" a group of young admirers. Youth was also impressively present in the annual MACD/MAU speech contest finals, with the winners pictured elsewhere on this page.

Effective programs for conservation were of key concern to those in attendance at the 31st Annual Convention of the Montana Association of Conservation Districts . . . and the consensus was that the challenges ahead for the remainder of the decade were "formidable."

Keyed to the theme, "Awareness Leads to Action," a panel including Gary Wicks, director of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Rep. James Lucas and Robert Lyman, president of the Montana Wildlife Federation, stressed the need for a proper land use policy which should address itself to:

1) Quality of environment,
2) Proper land use,
3) Saving prime agricultural land, and
4) Inventory of lands capabilities and potentials to insure wise land use decisions.

Additionally, Wicks cited the need to strengthen Montana's water laws to guarantee water rights as called for in the new constitution and to provide a more efficient means for record keeping, administration and appropriation of water for a

(Continued on Page 4)

montana's Treasure Acres

Vol. XXIV, No. IV Sept./Oct./Nov., 1972

Needed land use policy for Montana, long a key legislative goal of MACD, drew strong support from Gov. Tom Judge in his State of the State address before the Legislature early in January.

Calling for a start of a "new land ethic," Judge said:

"Degradation and depletion of our land resources are occurring continually because of unguided urban and rural sprawl, improper selection of residential and industrial sites, wasteful use of farm, range and forest lands and other unplanned developments.

". . . I urge your favorable consideration of the Interim Montana Land Use Regulation Act proposed by the Department of Inter-governmental Relations.

". . . We must also have the authority to prevent subdivision developments from scattering across lands that would be better suited for agriculture and recreation purposes.

". . . I (also) advocate passage of legislation to establish the rights of Montanans in regard to our water resources."

Similar objectives have been voiced by MACD for several years, and were reinforced by convention-approved resolution action by both the 30th and 31st Annual Conventions.

Despite an expressed keen concern over the need for an ever-expanded communications and information program, presently available finances make it impossible to continue TREASURE ACRES in its present printed format, MACD convention delegates have decided.

Thus, barring a "financial miracle," this will be the last issue of the "new" TREASURE ACRES, started experimentally a year ago both to increase the readability of the publication to the general public and to support MACD's request for federal funding for a joint MACD/Montana Office of Superintendent of Public Schools conservation information and education program.

In doubt at this time is the future of MACD's re-application for federal funding of its Search for Effective Environmental Knowledge (SEEK) Project. Although funding for re-submission of the application was approved by MACD convention delegates, the concept as developed in the 1972 application was dependent upon an expanded format similar to that utilized in the printed TREASURE ACRES.

Abandonment of the present TREASURE ACRES format and concept may well force the SEEK Project into "retirement," according to A. G. (Slim) Slattery, Hardin, newly named president of MACD. "It could well be that a final decision may have to be delayed until we can determine the response of the state's conservation districts to the new dues schedule," Slattery said.

"At any rate, at present, we are firmly impaled on the horns of the proverbial dilemma — a situation we hope to resolve in the near future. It would be of tremendous assistance to MACD's board of directors to receive immediate advice and suggestions from the boards of supervisors as to what course we should pursue," Slattery concluded.

MACD/MAU Speech Contest Winners

1st Holly Forrester

2nd Erick Erickson

3rd Inez Morrison

convention highlights...

SHOWN ABOVE, as pictorial highlights of MACD's 31st Annual Convention, are (1) "outstanding supervisors", l-r, Robert Jorgenson, Area 4; Keith Edwards, Area 3; Floyd Weyer, Area 2; Cecil Weeding, Area 1; Charles Lane, Area 5 (not pictured, Area 6, Ruby Valley CD Board of Supervisors . . . (2) 20-year Supervisors A. G. Slattery and Carl Johnson; (not pictured, Herbert Houg, Orin Fossum, Tom Connor) . . . (3) 1971 Goodyear-Award winners, l-r, Vede Hamma, Arnold Engellant and Robert Anderson (Chouteau County CD) . . . (4) 15-year Supervisors, l-r, Kenneth Coulter, John Metcalf, Pete Jackson, Douglas Delaney (not pictured, Roy Forrester, William French) . . . (5) a hilarious moment during the banquet featuring two MACD notables . . . (6) 10-year Supervisors, l-r, Arnold Engellant, Walter Dion, George Rice, Roy Nash, Stan Robbins, Harry Swank, Paul Fochs (not pictured, Maurice Ferrat, Dick Golie, John Zeller, Eugene Bjornstad, Earl Bassett, Kenneth Torgerson, Clint McFarland) . . . (7) MACD banquet dignitaries, l-r, Pete Jackson, Carl Johnson, Charles Lane, John Vanisko and Slim Slattery.

in brief...

SWEET GRASS—A letter was read from Ole Ueland about the need for land use planning boards in all counties and the importance of the conservation districts being represented on the board.

DAWSON—Two students from Dawson County High School — Charice Valantine and Randy Valene — met with the board of supervisors, after having been elected as "county agents" in a high school government class.

BROADWATER—The Range Resource meeting minutes were read and discussed The district plans to work with the Forest Service to work on a map of the stock-water survey in the county. A report was given on solid waste disposal and the City-County Planning Board was reported as favorably impressed with the district's plan

WIBAUX—Lyle Feragen, Rob Dobrowski, Warren Nelson, Wayne Begger, Jim Lindstrom and Jim Welsh have been

Prez Sez...

By
G. (Slim)
Slattery

First and most sincerely, my thanks and appreciation for allowing me the high honor of serving as president of MACD for the coming year Believe me I will do my utmost to continue the tremendous job done by outgoing President Bob Anderson . . . we all owe him a tremendous ovation of appreciation!

Second, to our convention host district — Custer County Conservation District, the Miles City Chamber of Commerce, our speakers and panelists, the management of Red Rock Village and all of you who attended the convention and made it the success it was, please know your contribution to the continued progress of MACD is deeply appreciated On behalf of all Montanans interested in a better Montana for our future generations, my heartfelt thanks

Finally, please appreciate that our work is far from done . . . and this is most definitely not the time to roll down our sleeves and relax Much has been done in the name of a better environment through conservation, but much remains to be done!

"Awareness Leads to Action" was the theme of our 1972 convention. We ARE aware and we have made significant progress in the past two years in making the layman public similarly aware. Now, it is time for action!

Gov. Tom Judge made a strong plea in support of our programs in his State of the State address (see Page 2). Sens Mike Mansfield and Lee Metcalf and Congressmen John Melcher and Richard Shoup are voicing similar pleas in the U.S Congress. But neither the Legislature nor the Congress can do it alone. They must have the grassroots support that only we can provide.

And if you don't think the time is NOW, then you haven't been reading the newspapers lately . . !

AS 1972 CAME TO A CLOSE, at least two meetings proved of vital interest to Montana conservationists: the seven public hearings held throughout Montana for the proposed "Montana Water Use Act," as submitted by the Water Law Advisory Council and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (Gary Wicks, director of the DNRC, is shown at right as he explains provisions of the proposed legislation at a hearing in Great Falls), and the Sediment Control Conference held in Helena, Dec. 15, to acquaint Montana leadership groups with existing and planned programs in the area of erosion prevention and sediment control (A. G. Slattery and Jeanne Baluka, both of MACD, and Ave Linford, Montana Conservationist and president of the Soil Conservation Society of America, are shown below, l-r, during the daylong sessions at Helena). For comment on the meetings, see the editorial on the back page of this issue of TREASURE ACRES.

Late in December the nation's conservation district cooperators saw the USDA slice almost a quarter of a billion dollars from federal funding for conservation.

The department announced the cancellation of further aid under the Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) and the new Water Bank Program. Congress had authorized a combined total of $235.5 million for the two programs — $225.5 million for REAP.

MACD Convention

(Continued from Page 2)

variety of beneficial uses.

MACD President Robert Anderson proposed a new dues structure for the state's conservation districts in his annual report—a proposal later adopted by the convention through resolution (details on the dues structure will be mailed directly to the districts) and pointed out that the increasing involvement of the districts and MACD in environmental problems necessitates a "more realistic funding base" for both local and state-level conservation activity.

Again, at the 1972 convention, the state-level high school speech contest proved a highlight activity. Following district and area contests, starting last spring, six finalists competed for $500 in scholarships provided by Montana Associated Utilities, statewide association of rural electric cooperatives. First-place winner of $250 was Holly Forrester of Beaverhead County High School, followed by Erick Erickson, a $150 scholarship winner from Billings West High School, and Inez Morrison, $100 winner from Sidney High School. Other area contestants were Dan Senecal, Powell High School, Dan Murnion, Garfield County High School and Shelley Gebhardt, Simms High School.

Newsletter contest winners were Cascade County, first, Chouteau County, second, and Big Sandy and Big Horn County, tie for third.

Supervisor awards for service were presented to Don Roth, Missoula County Conservation District, for 25 years of district-level service to conservation, as well as five awards for 20 years of service, six awards for 15 years and 14 for 10 years (see Page 3 pictures).

MACD officers elected for 1972-73 include A. G. Slattery, president; Charles Lane, vice president; Mrs. Oscar Hippe, treasurer, and Jeanne Baluka, secretary. Ladies auxiliary officers are Mrs. Harry Swank, president, Mrs. Don Naegli, vice president, and Mrs. Duane Christoffersen, secretary-treasurer.

. . . in brief

selected as a Youth Board of Supervisors to meet regularly with the district board of supervisors and discuss proposed conservation programs.

GALLATIN VALLEY—Livestock waste disposal facilities have been designed and constructed or started for Don Bos, John Heidma, John R Van Dyke, Tom Holdworth, Flikkema Ranches, Ray Van Dyke, Milo Todd and Rick Batchelder

HEADWATERS RC&D has been selected by USDA to be funded at the federal level. Irving (Bud) Nelson has been named coordinator and will have an office in Butte. Sponsors of the project are the conservation districts and county commissioners from Silver Bow, Deer Lodge, Powell, Beaverhead, Madison and Jefferson counties in southwestern Montana. Through the RC&D program, USDA can accelerate technical and financial assistance.

YELLOWSTONE—In response to a letter from Ole Ueland, supervisors reported they are working with the Laurel City-County Planning Board and with the group working on the Blue Creek disposal problem Leo Pipal also reported he has been working with Barry O'Leary on gravel and barrow pits

LEWIS AND CLARK—Ed Wilcox reported on trees available from the State Forestry Nursery for shelterbelts, wind and noise barriers through the SCS and Extension offices He said that 47 orders for over 13,000 trees have been ordered for spring delivery thus far

—Project contract on the Tee Bar ranch state land has been awarded to Stan Stelling.

—The district is working with the State Planning Board to put soils information into the computer with the hope that we can arrive at hydrological groupings for density planning for urban growth

—Craig Cemetery Association has requested our assistance in planning an irrigation system. We are designing a lagoon system for the Milford Colony.

GREEN MOUNTAIN—Mr. Jakub passed out copies of the proposed "Montana Forest Practices Act" and, with slides, a talk and a question-and-answer session, explained the proposed act

BRUCE MALCOLM has been named by supervisors of the Park County Conservation District as program leader for the new rangeland resource program.

Lincoln County Conservation District have re-elected their present officers — Chet Appeland, chairman; Dale Purdy, vice chairman and Howard Parsons, treasurer.

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Vol XXIV, No. IV — Sept./Oct./Nov. 1972

TREASURE ACRES is the official publication of the Montana Association of Conservation Districts, and is published in the interests of encouraging the judicious utilization of our most valuable natural resources—soil and water

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— about the cover —

Retiring MACD President Robert Anderson is given the "white hat" (good guy) — "black hat" (bad guy) treatment by his peers during annual convention hijinks at Miles City — a reference to pre-election "campaigning" by so-called western Montana environmentalists. The four panel pictures (t-b) feature MACD's 1973 officers — A. G. Slattery, president; Charles Lane, vice president; Jeanne Baluka, secretary, and Mrs. Oscar Hippe, treasurer.

Next Move...?

'Fateful Finish' for 1972 ...!

During the planning stage, this space was allocated for a discussion of the fact that the federal government is dead-serious when they say that either the individual states must come up with effective sedimentation pollution control laws . . . or the federal government will do it for them!

And, indeed, the subject is a matter of serious concern to MACD and all Montana.

However, the "fateful finish of 1972" (the last two weeks, as a matter of fact) were highlighted by events that "rearranged" our priorities . . . drastically!

During the traditional period of Christmas — a time of "goodwill toward man" — the following Administration-inspired actions were announced:

—Cancellation of REAP (formerly ACP and established 36 years ago), authorized by Congress to spend $225.5 million in 1973;

—Cancellation of the new Water Bank Program, authorized by Congress to spend $10 million in 1973;

—An end to low-cost direct loans by REA, effective Jan. 1, 1973, (estimated to save the government up to $279 million this fiscal year which ends next June 30) with all loan funds to be raised from sales of government-insured securities to private investors. The order also will more than double the interest on REA loans to cooperative electric and telephone borrowers, from a 2 per cent annual rate in effect since 1944, to 5 per cent;

—Cutbacks in the feed grain and cotton programs, estimated to cost rural America almost $1 billion;

—An end to further emergency loans by the Farmers Home Administration for natural disasters, estimated to run as high as $600 million, and

—A cutback in ASCS farm grain storage and drying loans of 75 per cent, beginning next July 1. Estimated government "savings" are put at about $100 million.

So that you would know, our priorities for this issue of TREASURE ACRES were "rearranged." The next move is ours . . .!—RWF

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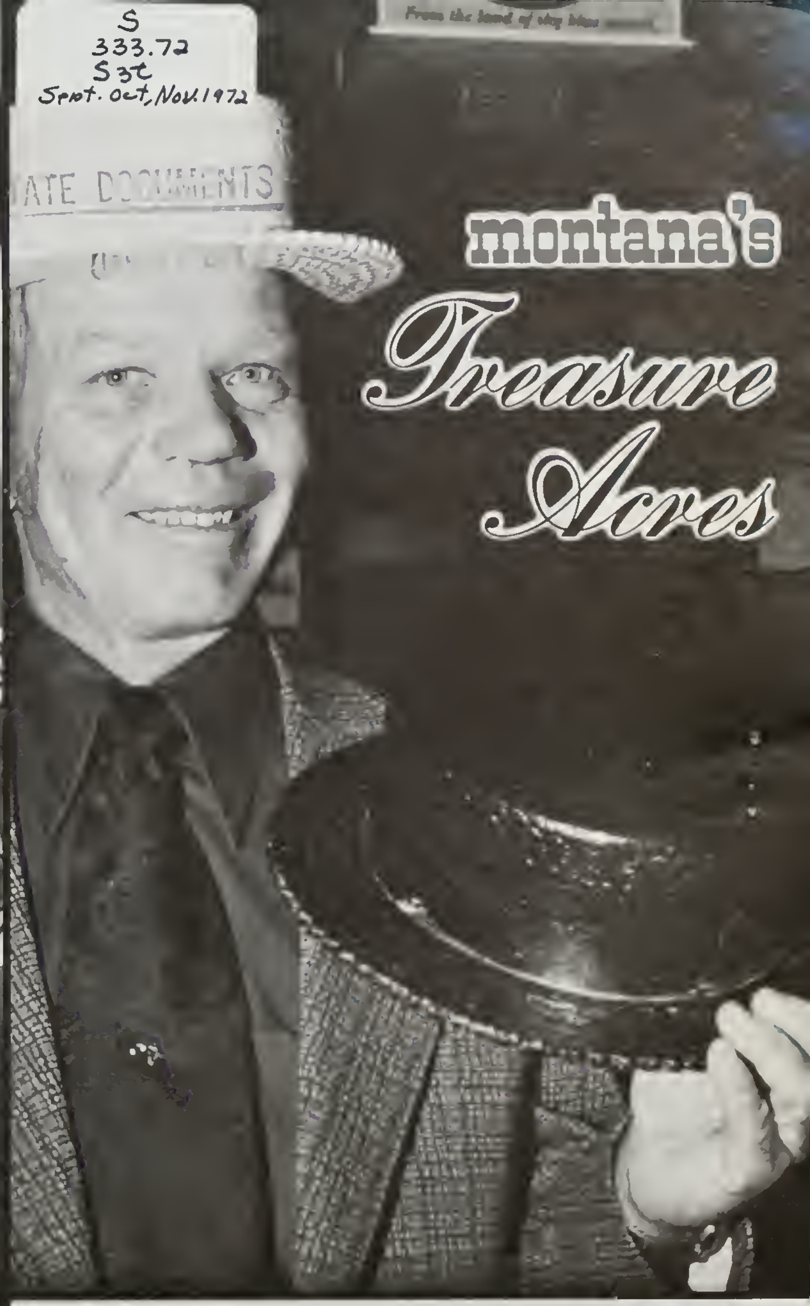
ARTCRAFT PRINTERS BOZEMAN, MONTANA

september/ october/ november

1972

Vol. XXIV, No. IV



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Sept. Oct, Nov. 1972
STATE DOCUMENTS

PUBLISHED BY THE MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

emphasis:

- MACD Annual Meeting
- Sediment Control Seminar
- MACD/MAU Speech Contest
- Proposed Water Use Act